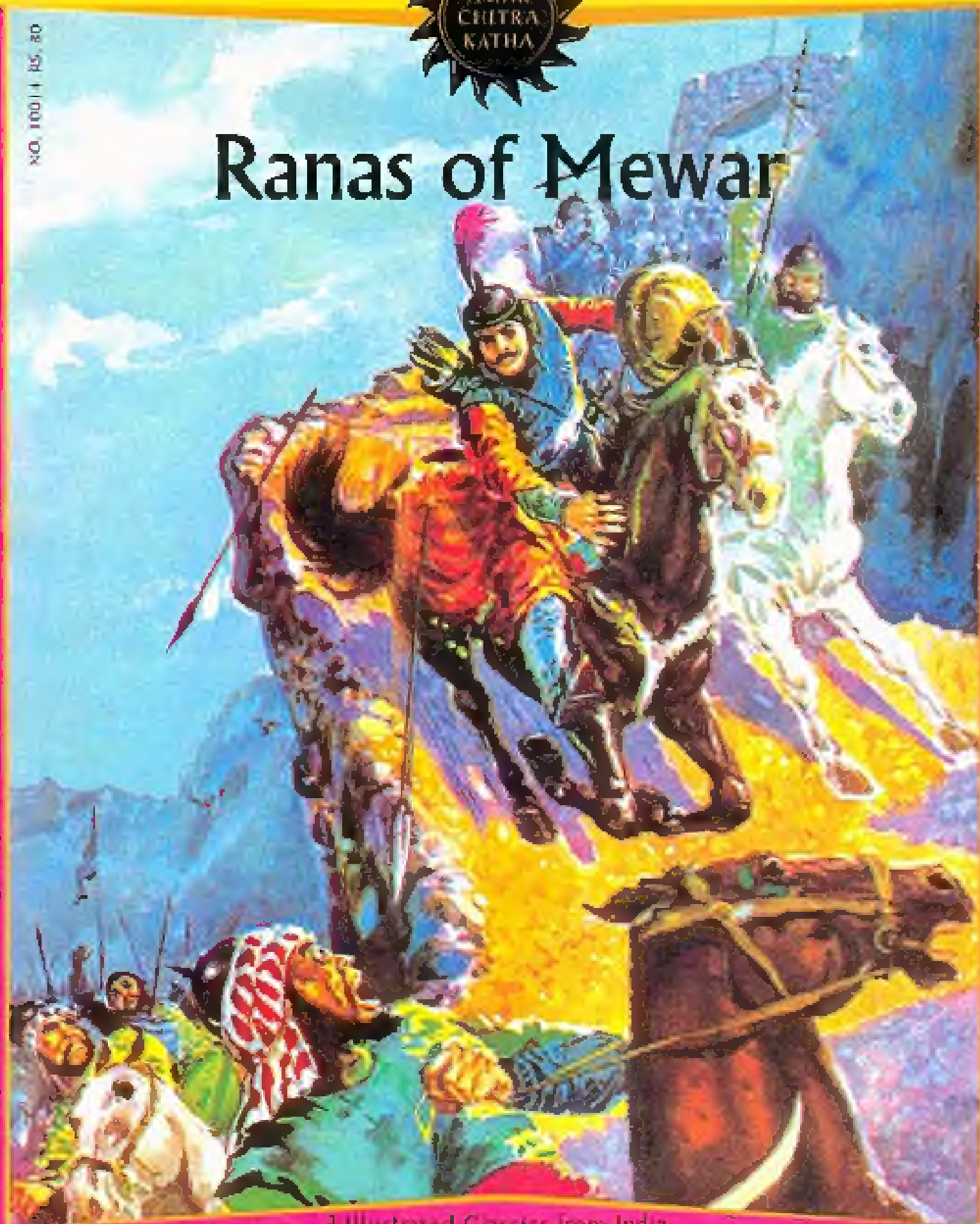


NO. 10014 RS. 80



Ranas of Mewar



3 Illustrated Classics from India
Rana Kumbha • Rana Pratap • Rana Sanga



Illustrated Classics From India

Rana Kumbha

Maharana Kumbha was a scion of the Sisodiya branch of the House of Hammir.

Kumbha ascended the throne of Mewar in 1433 after his father, Rana Mokal, was killed in a treacherous conspiracy. He ruled for thirty-five years, a period replete with campaigns. He never lost a battle even when confronted with the toughest adversaries. He built a number of formidable fortresses all over Rajasthan which proved to be of great strategic importance to later rulers of Mewar. The Tower of Victory he built in Chittor is one of the landmarks of Rajasthan.

Maharana Kumbha was not only a great sovereign and military commander but also a great scholar and musicologist. He wrote commentaries on the Gita-Govinda by Jayadava and composed works like the 'Chandi Shataka' and 'Sangeet Ratnakar'.

Among the galaxy of Rajput sovereigns, Maharana Kumbha occupies a pre-eminent position. His natural abilities and achievements place him in the forefront of the great rulers not only of Mewar, but also of the whole of India.

The material for this Chitra Katha has been drawn from the famous book on the life of Kumbha by Harbilas Sarda.

Script: Jagjit Uppal Illustrations: H.S. Chavan & Dilip Kadam
Cover : Pratap Mulick

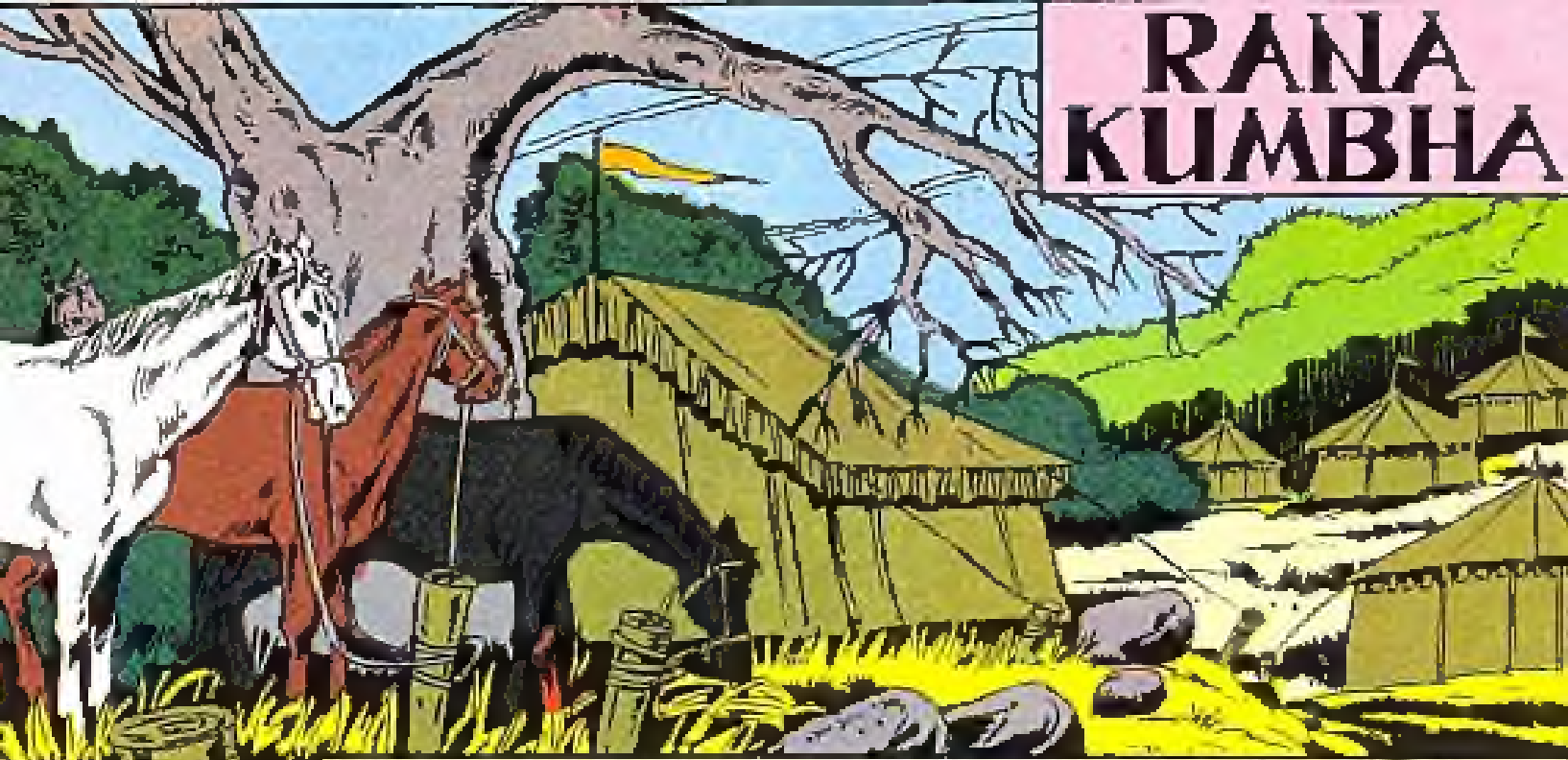
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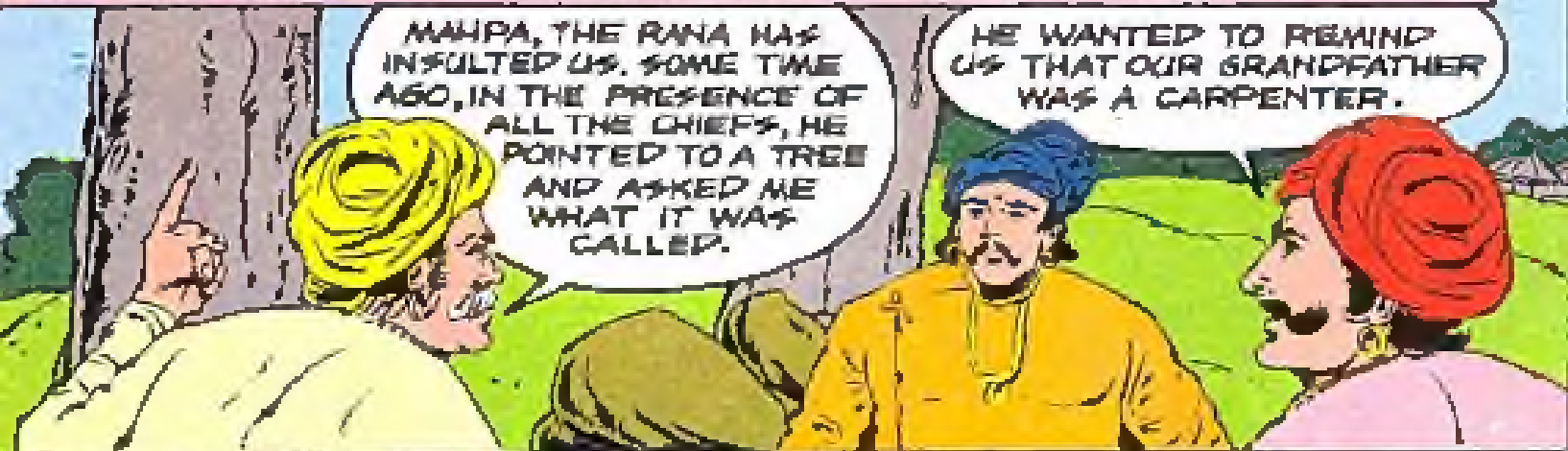
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RANA KUMBHA



MAHARANA MOKAL, THE RULER OF MEWAR, WAS CAMPING AT BASOR (NEAR CHITTOR) WHILE ON A TOUR OF HIS KINGDOM. ONE QUIET AFTERNOON THE RANA WAS RESTING IN HIS TENT.

NOT FAR AWAY, TWO OF HIS OFFICERS, THE BROTHERS CHACHA AND MERA, WERE CONSPIRING WITH ANOTHER OFFICER, MAHPA, TO MURDER HIM.



MAHPA, THE RANA HAS INSULTED US. SOME TIME AGO, IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE CHIEFS, HE POINTED TO A TREE AND ASKED ME WHAT IT WAS CALLED.

HE WANTED TO REMIND US THAT OUR GRANDFATHER WAS A CARPENTER.



HE SHALL PAY WITH HIS LIFE.

WE SHALL AVENGE THIS INSULT.

YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT.

LOOKING FOR FURTHER SUPPORT, THE THREE MEN ASKED MALESI, THE RANA'S CHIEF GUARD, TO JOIN THEM. BUT THE LOYAL GUARD INFORMED THE RANA OF THE CONSPIRACY.



THE RANA DID NOT TAKE THE WARNING SERIOUSLY.



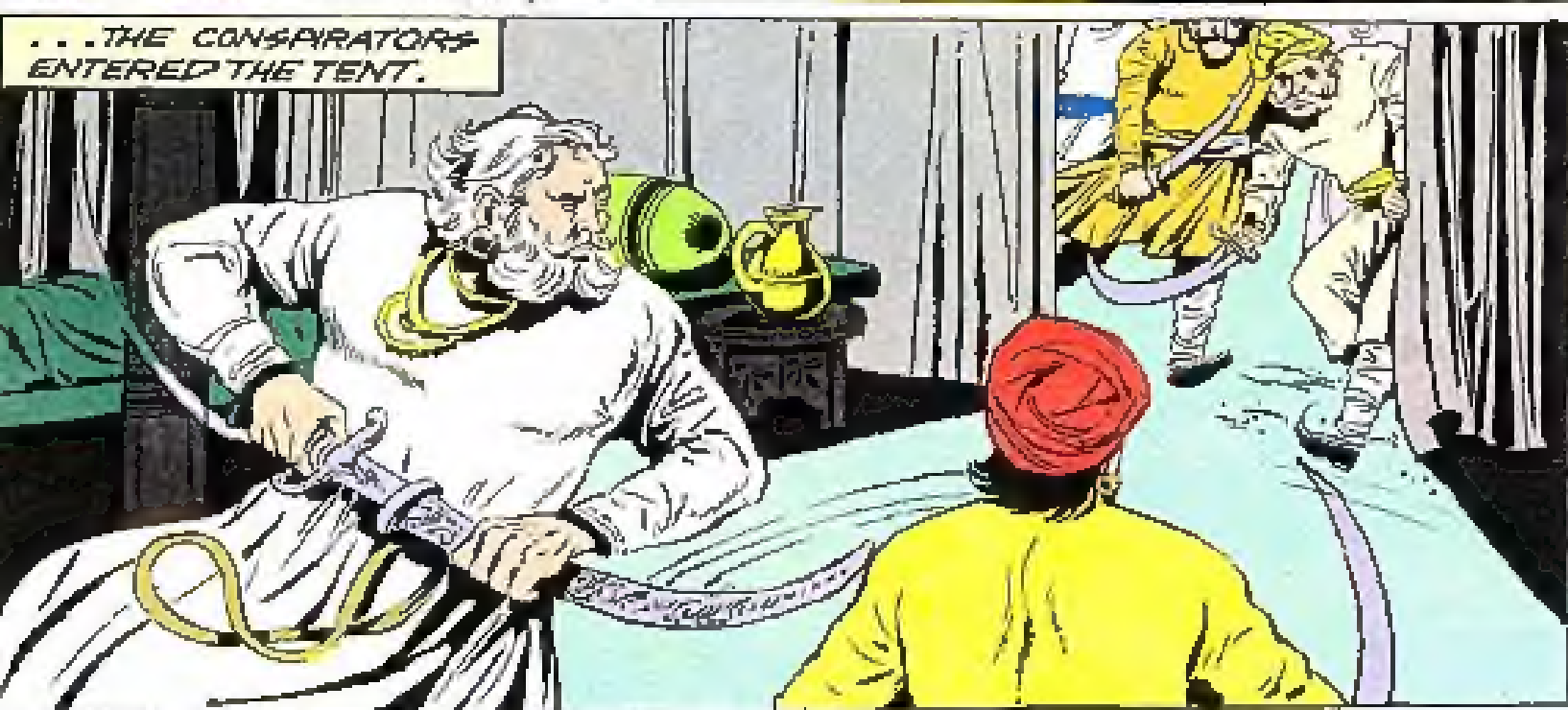
HE WAS WRONG. THE VERY NEXT DAY, THE CONSPIRATORS DECIDED TO STRIKE. AS THEY RODE TOWARDS THE RANA'S TENT IT WAS PRINCE KUMBHA WHO ALERTED THE RANA.



EVEN AS RANA MOKAL AND THE OTHERS GOT READY...



...THE CONSPIRATORS ENTERED THE TENT.



TRAITORS! IS THIS HOW YOU REPAI YOUR BENEFACITOR!

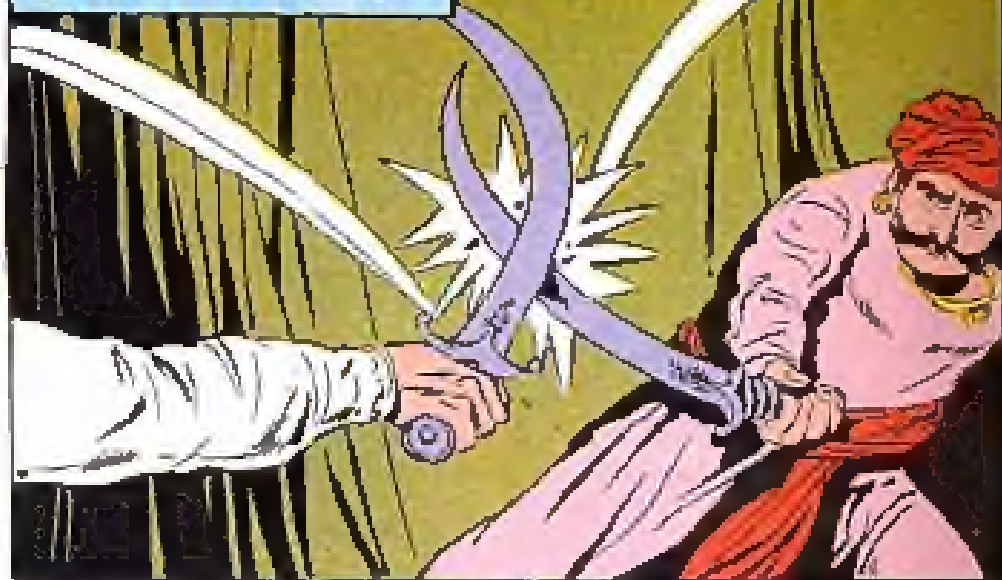


YOU INSULT US IN PUBLIC AND THEN CALL YOURSELF OUR BENEFACTOR! CHARGE, MERA! GET TO WORK, MAHPA!

THE RANA DREW HIS
\$WORD AND ...



... HIS BLADE CLASHED WITH THOSE
OF THE TRAITORS.



RANI KADI* BRAVELY ENTERED THE FRAY.



BUT THE RUTHLESS CONSPIRATORS SHOWED HER NO MERCY. WHEN
\$HE FELL, THE RANA CRIED OUT TO HIS YOUNG \$ON —



KUMBHA!
FLEE! WASTE
NO TIME!

I CAN'T LEAVE
YOU, FATHER!
I'LL FIGHT
WITH YOU.

* KUMBHA'S STEP-MOTHER

AS MORE MEN ENTERED THE TENT —



KUMBHA,
YOU MUST
ESCAPE FOR
THE SAKE OF
MEWAR! RIGHT
NOW!

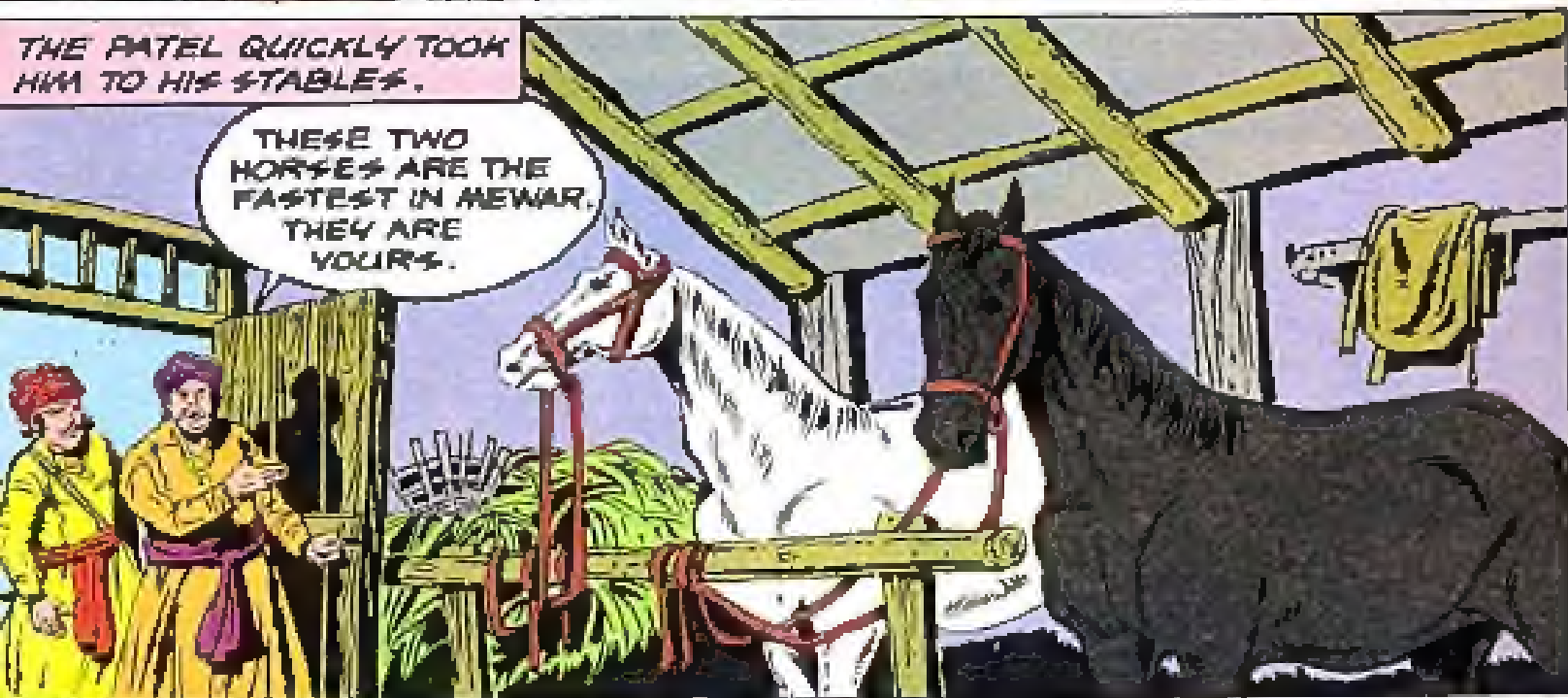
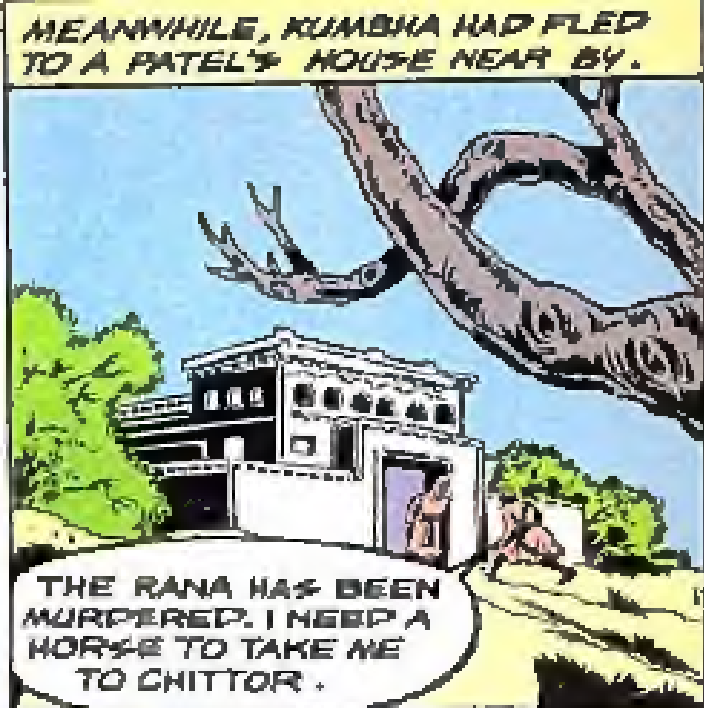


I'LL OBEY MY
FATHER, THOUGH I
MUST LEAVE
HIM TO FIGHT
ALONE.



KUMBHA! I'M
DYING... VICTORY
TO MEWAR!

I WILL NOT REST
UNTIL I HAVE
AVENGED YOUR
MURDER, FATHER!

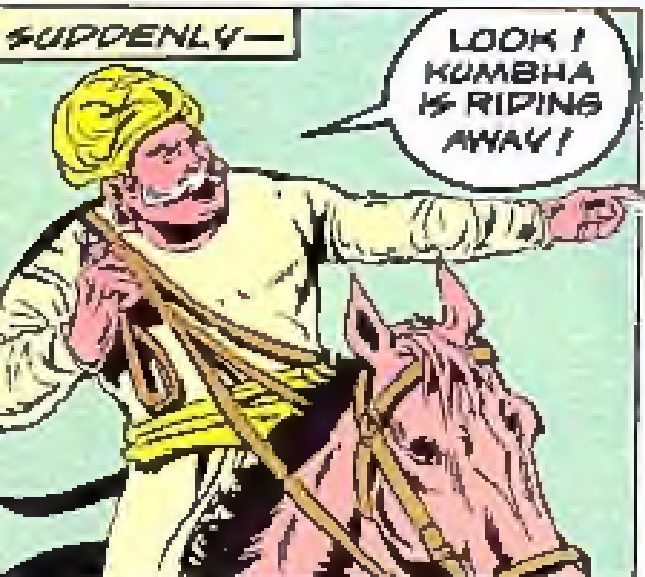


MEANWHILE THE CONSPIRATORS WERE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF KUMBHA.



HE COULDN'T
HAVE GONE
FAR.

SUDDENLY—

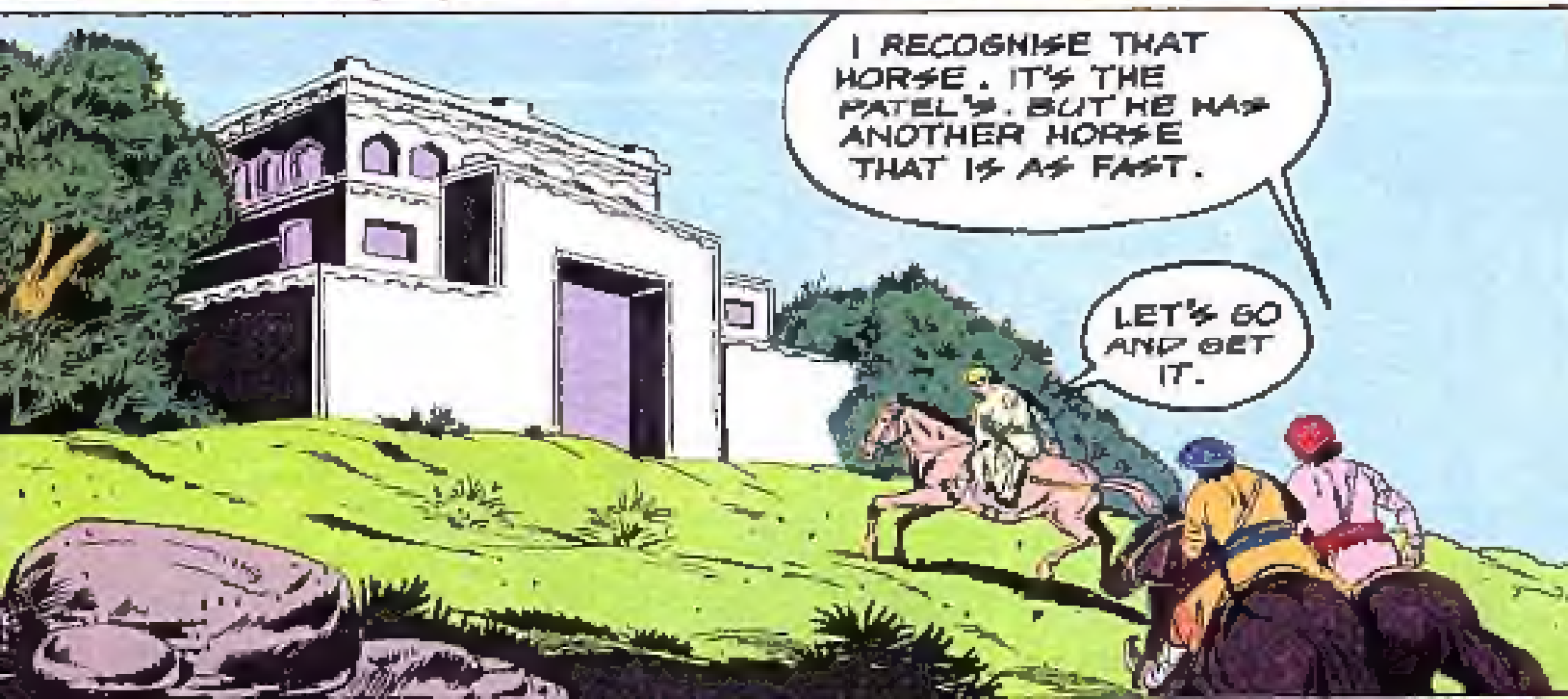


LOOK! KUMBHA
IS RIDING
AWAY!



AFTER
HIM!

WE'D BETTER
GIVE UP. AT THAT
SPEED WE WILL
NEVER CATCH UP
WITH HIM.

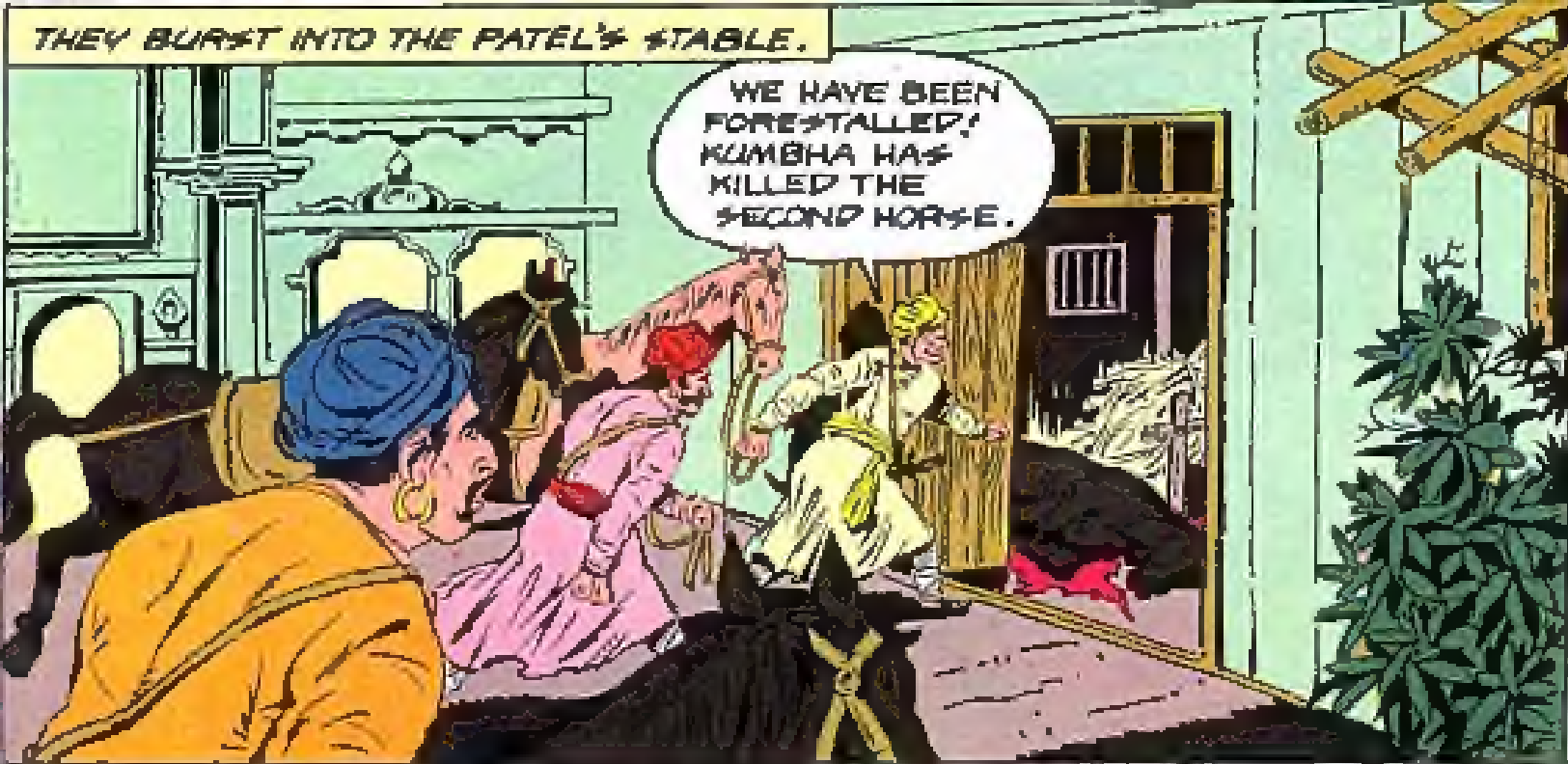


I RECOGNISE THAT
HORSE. IT'S THE
PATEL'S. BUT HE HAS
ANOTHER HORSE
THAT IS AS FAST.

LET'S GO
AND GET
IT.

THEY BURST INTO THE PATEL'S STABLE.

WE HAVE BEEN
FORESTALLED!
KUMBHA HAS
KILLED THE
SECOND HORSE.



COME, LET'S NOT WASTE
ANY TIME. WE MUST CAP-
TURE KUMBHA BEFORE
HE REACHES CHITTOR.



BUT KUMBHA HAD ALREADY
REACHED CHITTOR.



CLOSE
THE GATE!
BE QUICK!





WE ARE TOO
LATE / KUMBHA
HAS ESCAPED.

NEVER
MIND WE'LL
SET HIM SOME
OTHER TIME.



LATER, KUMBHA WAS CROWNED
RANA OF CHITTOR.

AFTER THE CORONATION, KUMBHA CONFERRED
WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER HANNA BAI

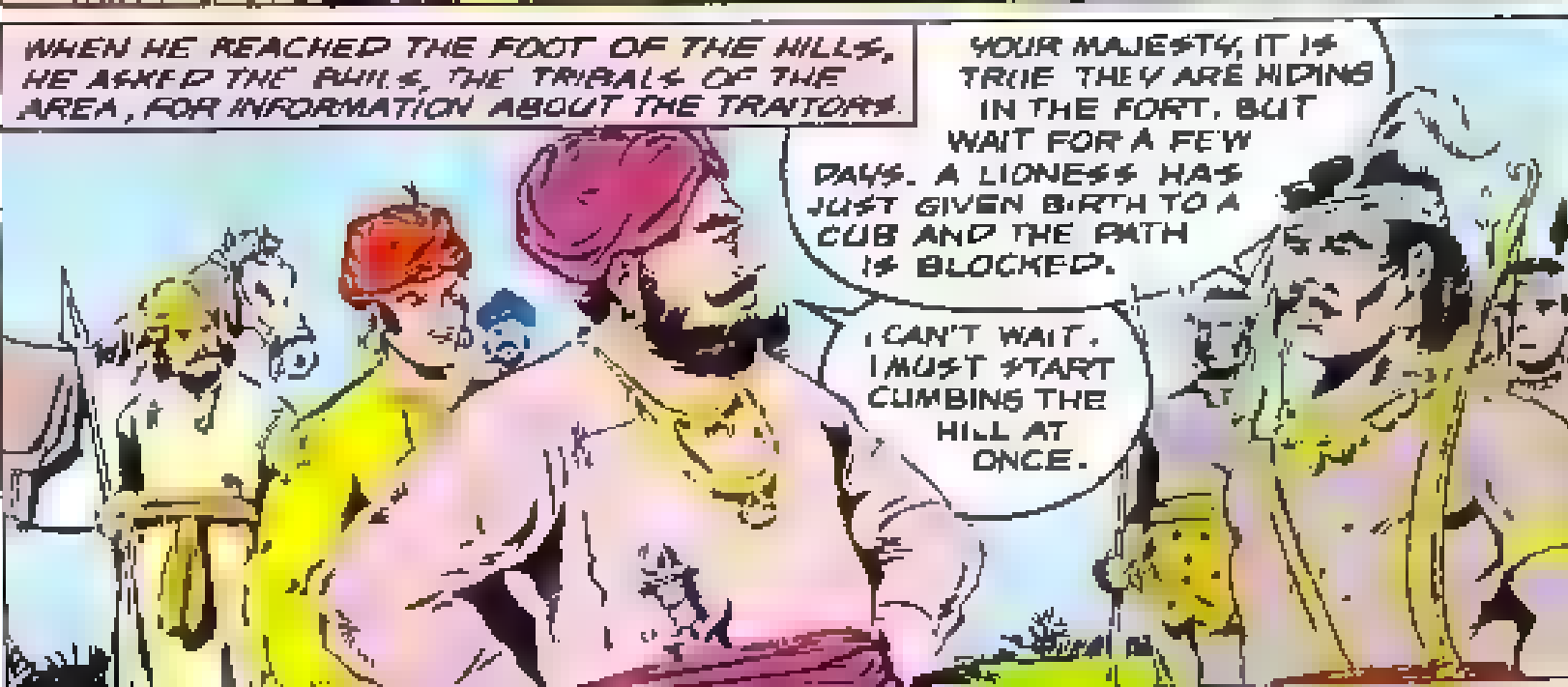
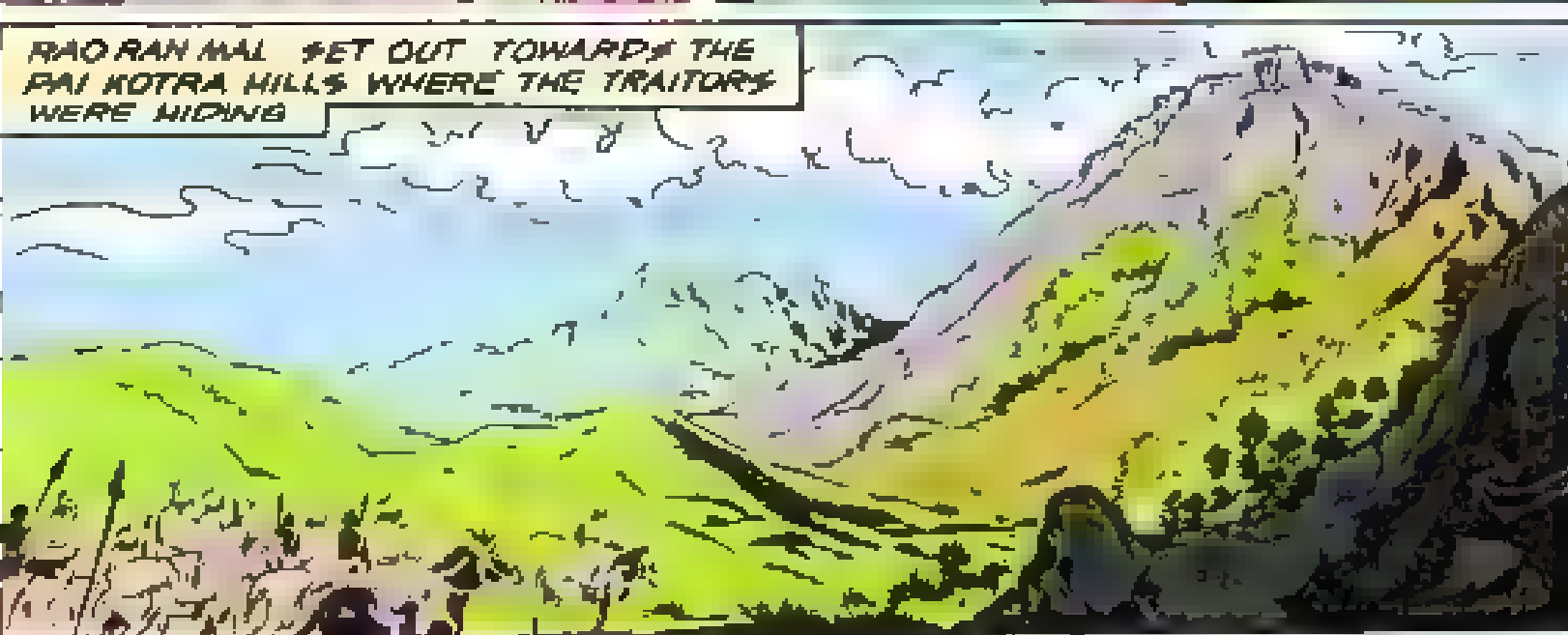
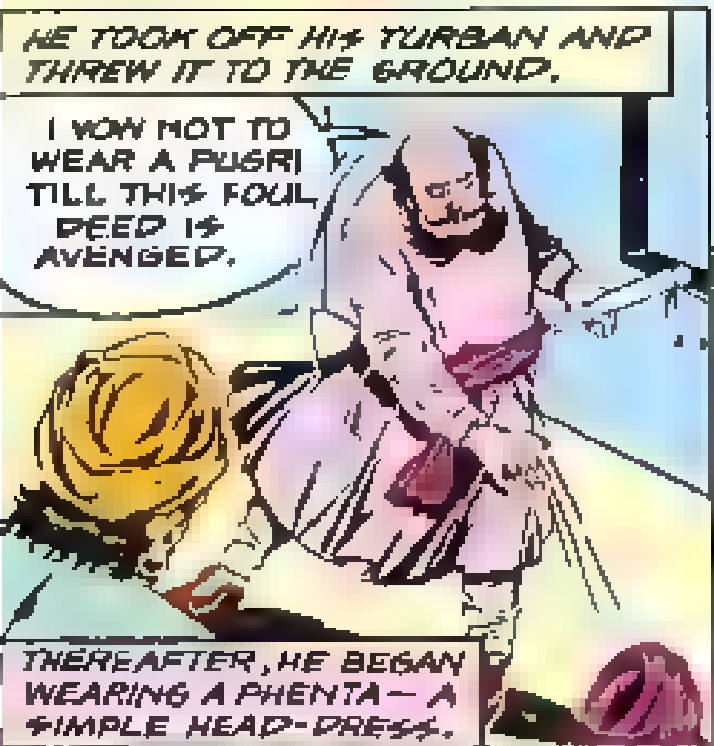
MAHRA, CHACHA
AND MERA
ARE STILL AT
LARGE. I MUST
PURSUE THEM

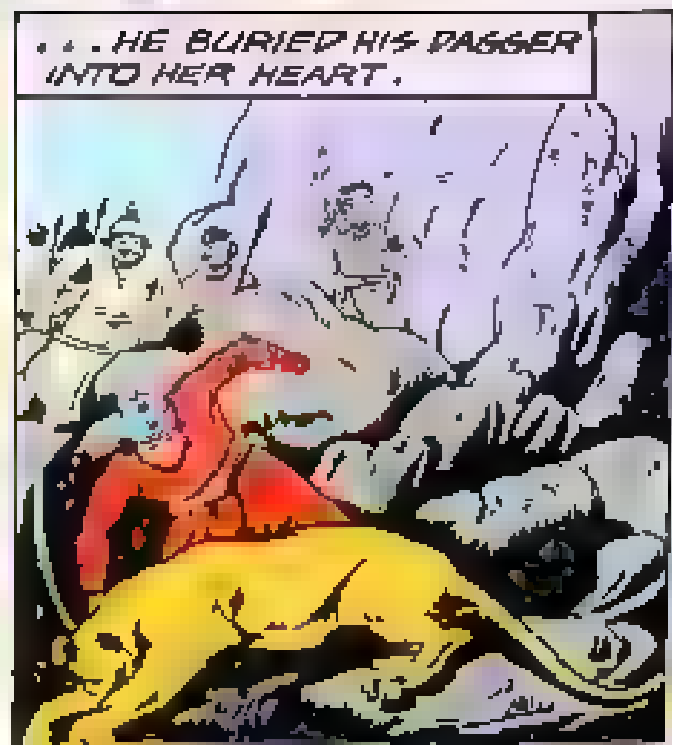
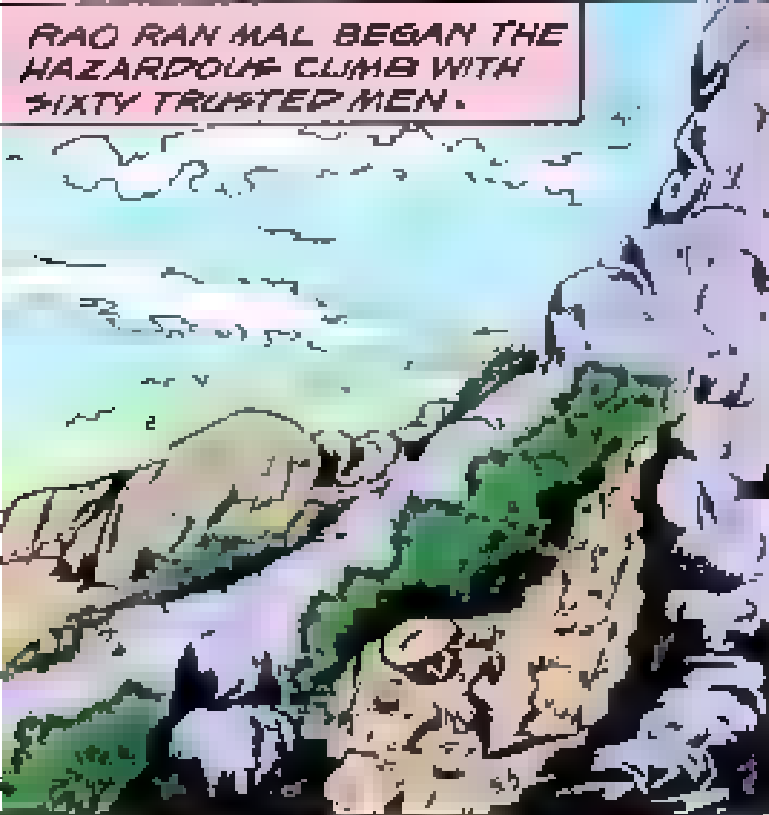
NO, KUMBHA /
DON'T LEAVE
CHITTOR TILL
YOU HAVE CON-
SOLIDATED YOUR
POSITION SEND
WORD TO MY
BROTHER WHO
WILL CERTAINLY
HELP YOU.

KUMBHA SENT AN ENVOY TO
RAO RAN MAL, THE RAJPOUTING
OF MARWAR

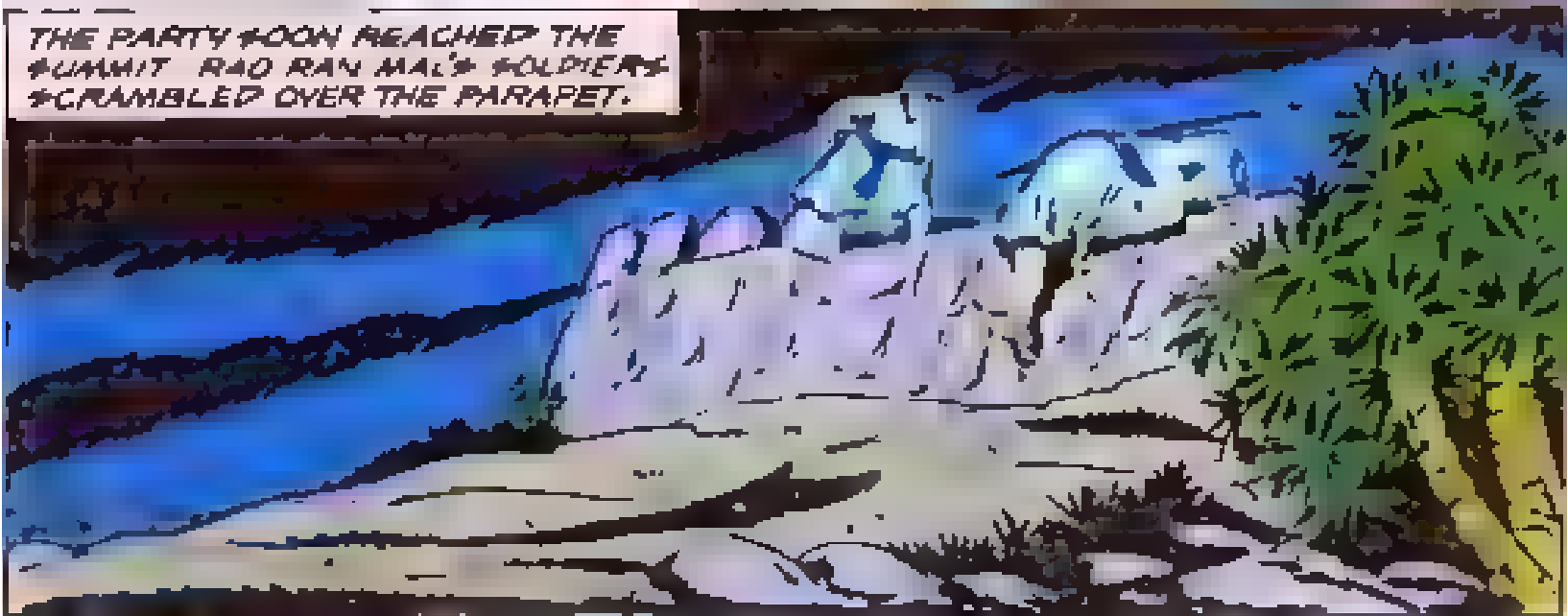
RANA MOHAL
HAS BEEN
MURDERED! I
BOW MY HEAD
IN SHAME FOR
NOT PREVENTING
THIS.







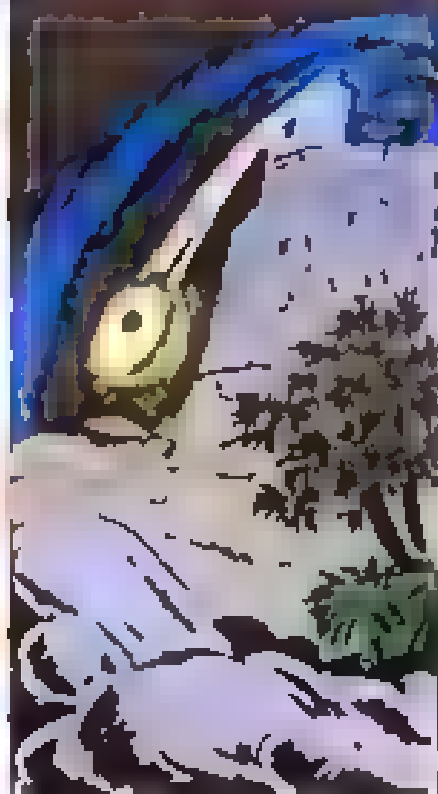
THE PARTY SOON REACHED THE
SUMMIT. RAD RAN MA'S SOLDIERS
SCRAMBLED OVER THE PARAPET.



JUST THEN, THE DRUMMER ACCOMPANYING
RAD RAN MA'S ARMY
SLIPPED AWAY.



HIS DRUM FELL
DOWN.



WITH A RESOUNDING CRASH.



INSIDE THE FORT,
CHACHA'S DAUGHTER
Woke UP WITH A
START.



FATHER, DID YOU
HEAR THAT? PER-
HAPS KUMBHA'S
MEN ARE
HERE!

IT'S ONLY THE SOUND OF
THUNDER. GO TO SLEEP,
CHILD. KUMBHA'S MEN
WON'T DARE TO CLIMB
THIS STEEP HILL.



AFTER KILLING CHACHA AND MERA, RAO RAN MAL WENT IN SEARCH OF MAHPA.

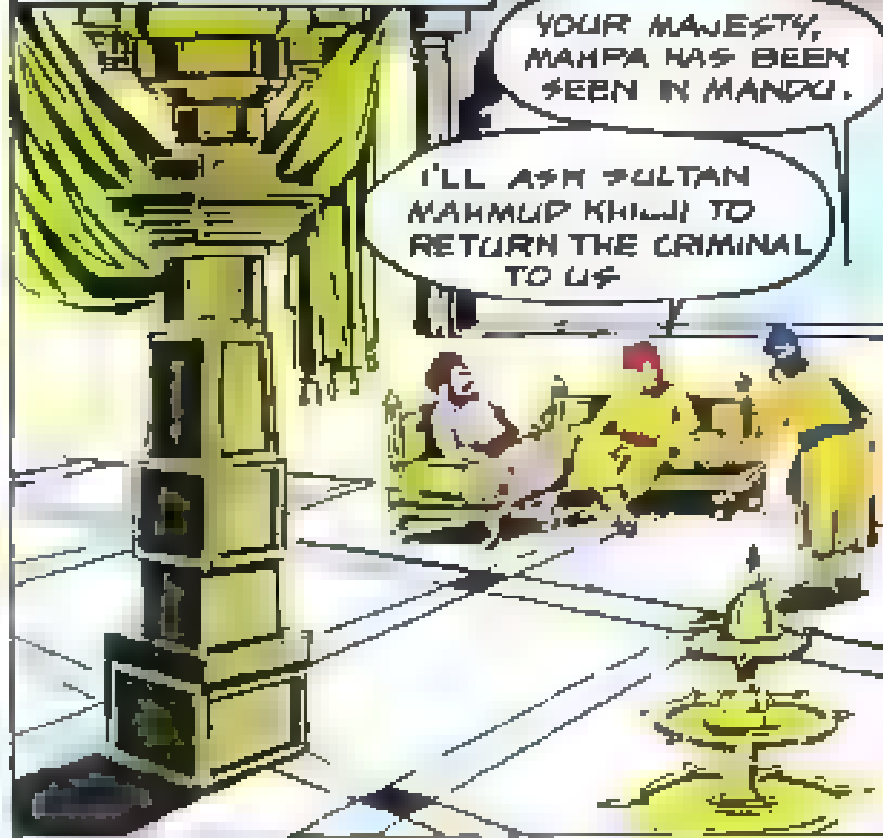


RAO RAN MAL RETURNED TO KUMBHA'S PALACE AT CHITTOR.



WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF CHACHA AND MERA. BUT MAHPA CANNOT BE FOUND

A FEW YEARS LATER A MESSENGER CALLED ON KUMBHA.



YOUR MAJESTY, MAHPA HAS BEEN SEEN IN MANDU.

I'LL ASK SULTAN MAHMUD KHILJI TO RETURN THE CRIMINAL TO US

SOME TIME LATER, KUMBHA'S ENVOY RETURNED AFTER MEETING THE SULTAN



YOUR MAJESTY, THE SULTAN SAYS THAT MAHPA IS NOW UNDER HIS PROTECTION AND REFUSES TO SEND HIM BACK.

KUMBHA TURNED TO HIS UNCLE.

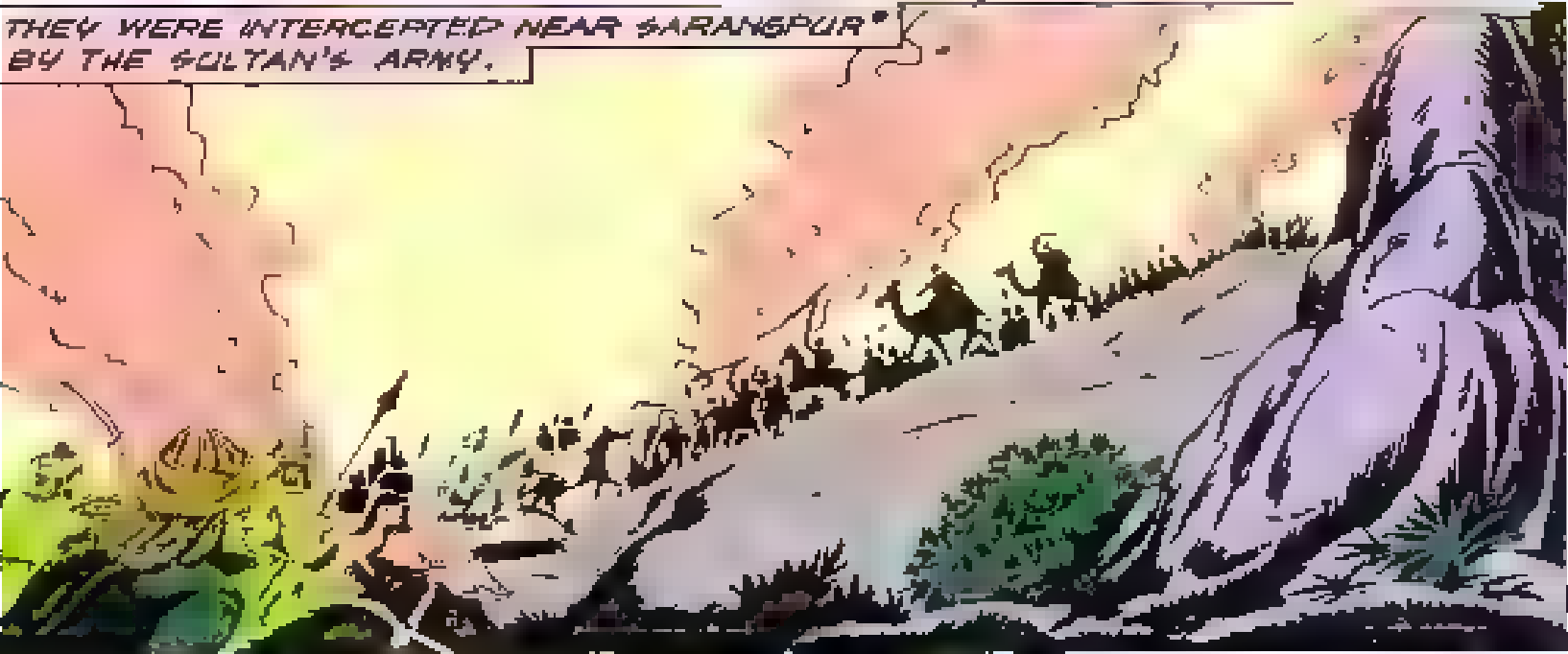


IF THE SULTAN WILL NOT SEND MAHPA TO CHITTOR WE WILL GO TO MANDU TO BRING HIM, WON'T WE, UNCLE?

SO RANA KUMBHA AND RAN MAL
LEFT CHITTOR WITH THEIR FORCES.



THEY WERE INTERCEPTED NEAR SARANSPUR
BY THE SULTAN'S ARMY.



THE RAJPUTS PUT UP A VERY STRONG
FIGHT AND THE SULTAN WAS FORCED
TO RETREAT TO THE FORTRESS OF MANDU.



SITUATED BETWEEN CHITTOR AND MANDSAUR

RAJPUTS PURSUED THE RETREATING
SIEGE TO THE FORTRESS OF MANDU.

I WONDER
HOW LONG
THEY CAN
HOLD OUT.

I THINK
WE SHOULD
ATTACK
WITHOUT
DELAY

MEANWHILE, SULTAN MAHMUD
HILJI WENT FOR HANPA.

HANPA, I CAN
NO LONGER GIVE
YOU SHELTER GO
AND SEEK THE
RANA'S PARDON.

THE
RANA WILL
SHOW ME NO
MERCY I'D
BETTER
ESCAPE.

HE ROPE UP TO THE RAMPARTS OF THE
FORT.

I ONLY HOPE
W'LL NOT BE
SPOTTED BY
THE RAJPUTS.

... AND LEAPT OUT
ON HORSEBACK



THIS
IS MY
ONLY
HOPE!

THE HORSE WAS KILLED AS IT
FELL TO THE GROUND



BUT RANA ESCAPED UNHURT

THE NEXT DAY THE RAJPUTS STORMED THE FORT.



ATTACK!

ONWARD!

THE GATES OF THE FORT COULD NOT WITH-
STAND THE MOUNTING PRESSURE OF THE
RAJPUTS.

VICTORY TO
RANA KUMBHA!



MAHMUD KHILJI WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE.



SULTAN,
WHERE IS
MAHMA?

YOU HAVEN'T
FOUND HIM? SO I
HAVE THE LAST
LAUGH IT APPEARS.
YOU HAVE ME, BUT
NOT MAHMA!



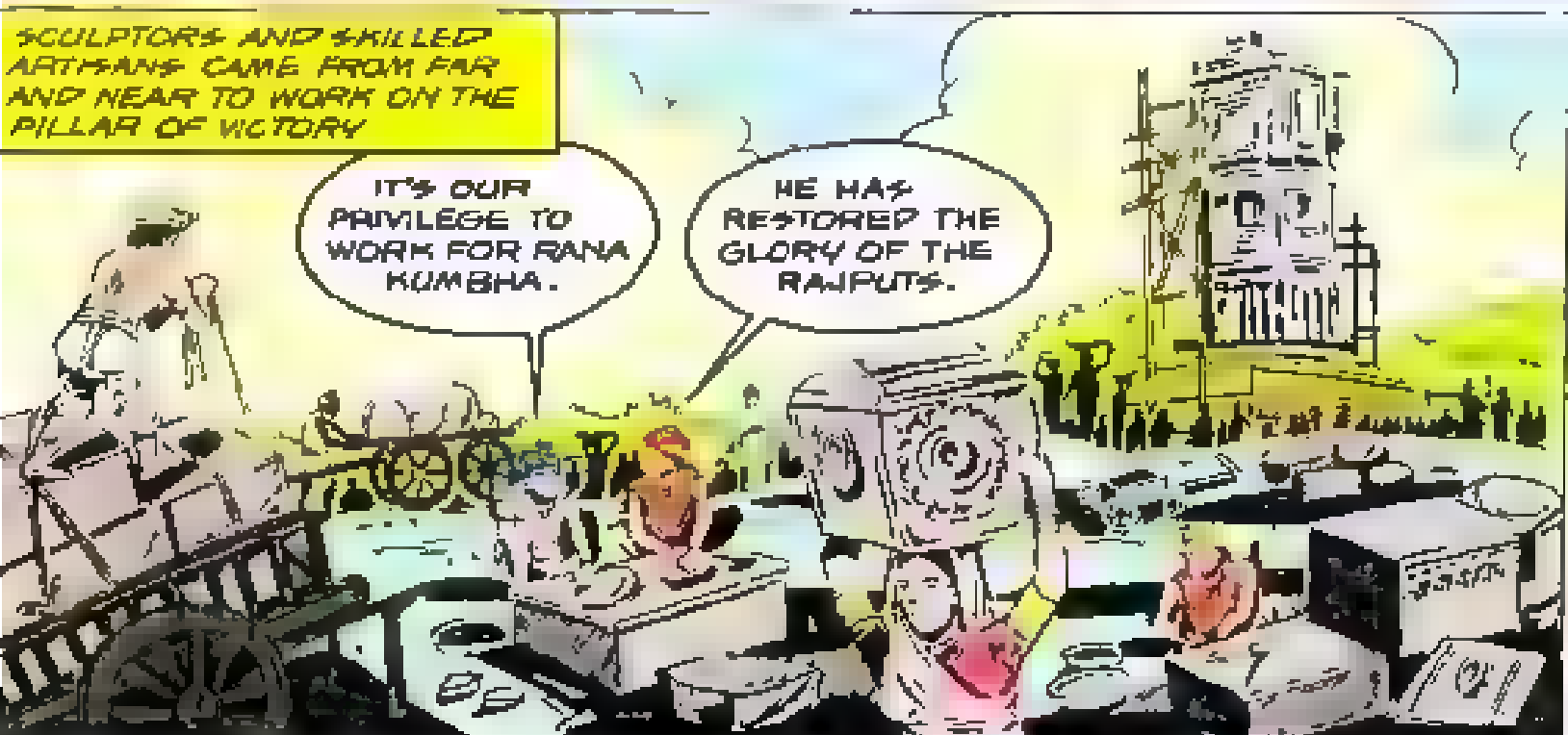
WE WILL
GET HIM YET,
IF HE IS STILL
ALIVE!

RANA KUMBHA RETURNED TO CHITTOR IN TRIUMPH.



WE WILL BUILD A
PILLAR TO COMMEMORATE
OUR VICTORY OVER
MAHMUD KHILJI.

SCULPTORS AND SKILLED
ARTISANS CAME FROM FAR
AND NEAR TO WORK ON THE
PILLAR OF VICTORY



IT'S OUR
PRIVILEGE TO
WORK FOR RANA
KUMBHA.

HE HAS
RESTORED THE
GLORY OF THE
RAJPUTS.

YEARS LATER, MAHMA SOUGHT AND OBTAINED KUMBHA'S PARDON.

SIX MONTHS LATER -

SULTAN! I NOW
RELEASE YOU
AND ALSO RETURN
MANDU TO YOU. SO,
AND FROM NOW ON
DO NOT GIVE ASYLUM
TO MURDERERS!



YOU
ARE
GRACIOUS,
RANA.



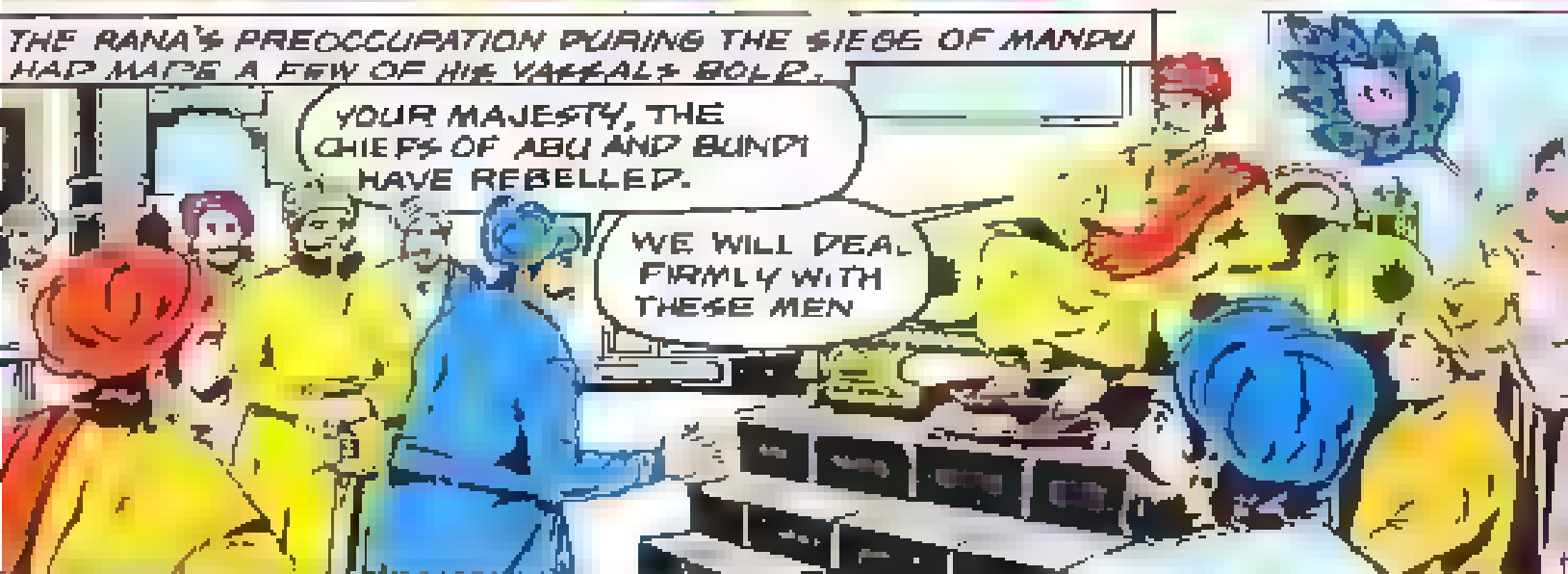
I WILL
AVENGE THIS
HUMILIATION.



THE RANA'S PREOCCUPATION DURING THE SIEGE OF MANDU
HAD MADE A FEW OF HIS VASSALS BOLD.

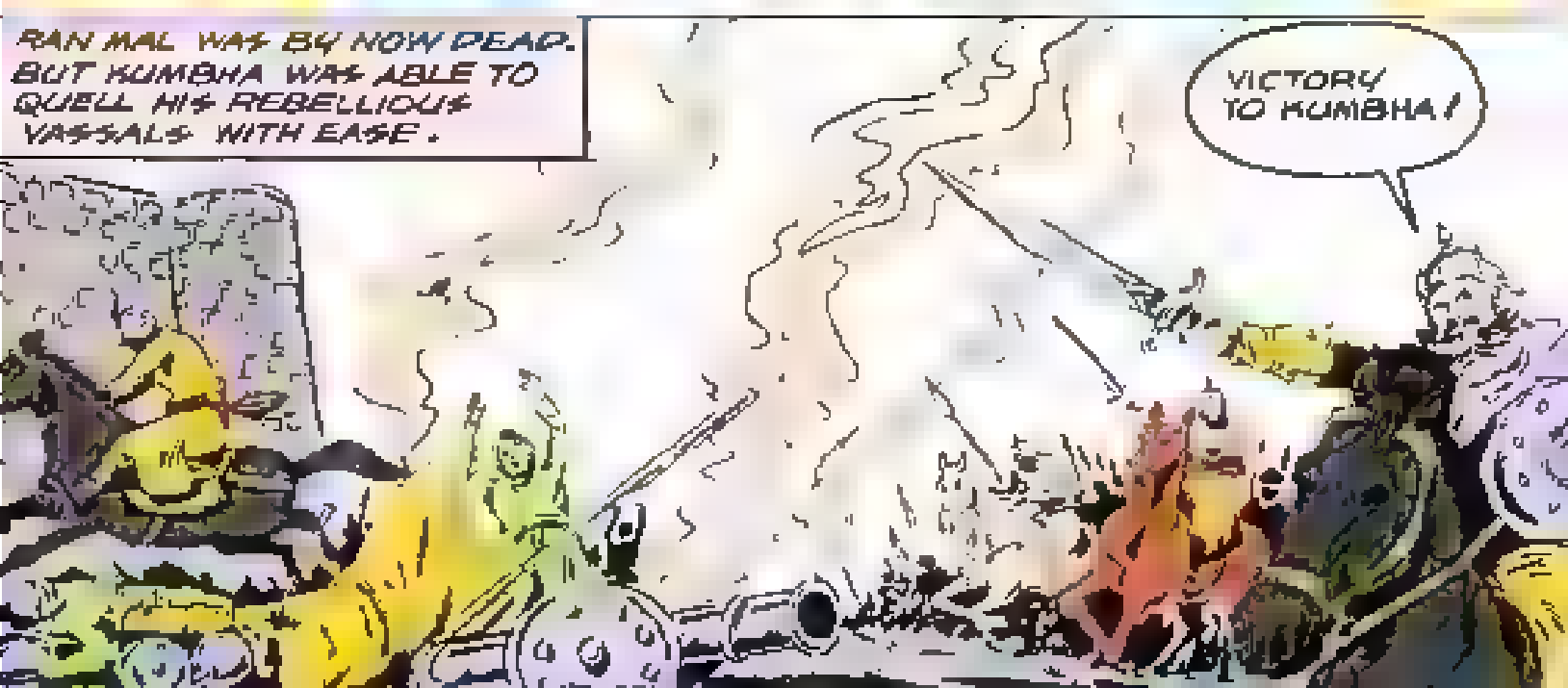
YOUR MAJESTY, THE
CHIEFS OF ABU AND BUNDI
HAVE REBELLED.

WE WILL DEAL
FIRMLY WITH
THESE MEN



RAN MAL WAS BY NOW DEAD.
BUT KUMBHA WAS ABLE TO
QUELL HIS REBELLIOUS
VASSALS WITH EASE.

VICTORY
TO KUMBHA!



IN 1444, KUMBHA WAS AT HARAVATI PUNISHING SOME REBELS, WHEN HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM CHITTOR

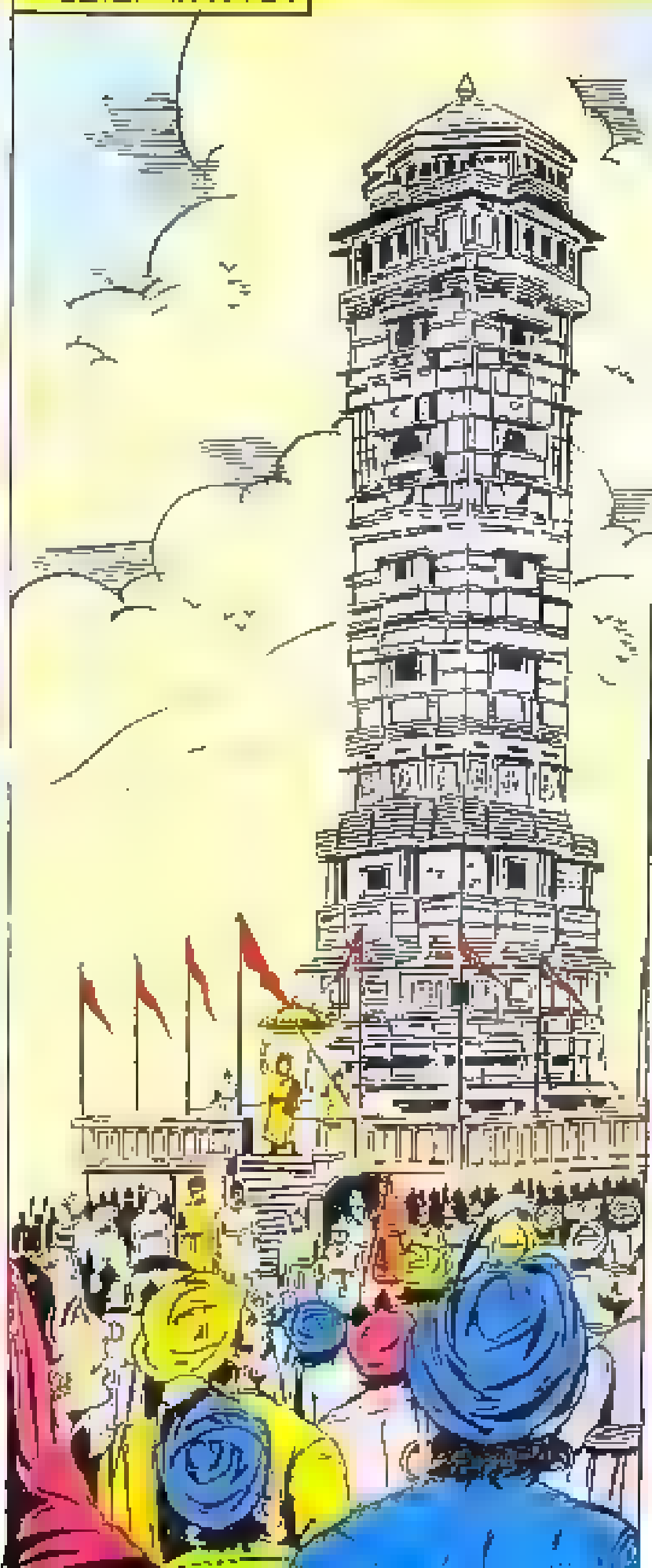


KUMBHA'S ARMY CAME UPON THE SULTAN'S FORCES NEAR MANDALGARH.

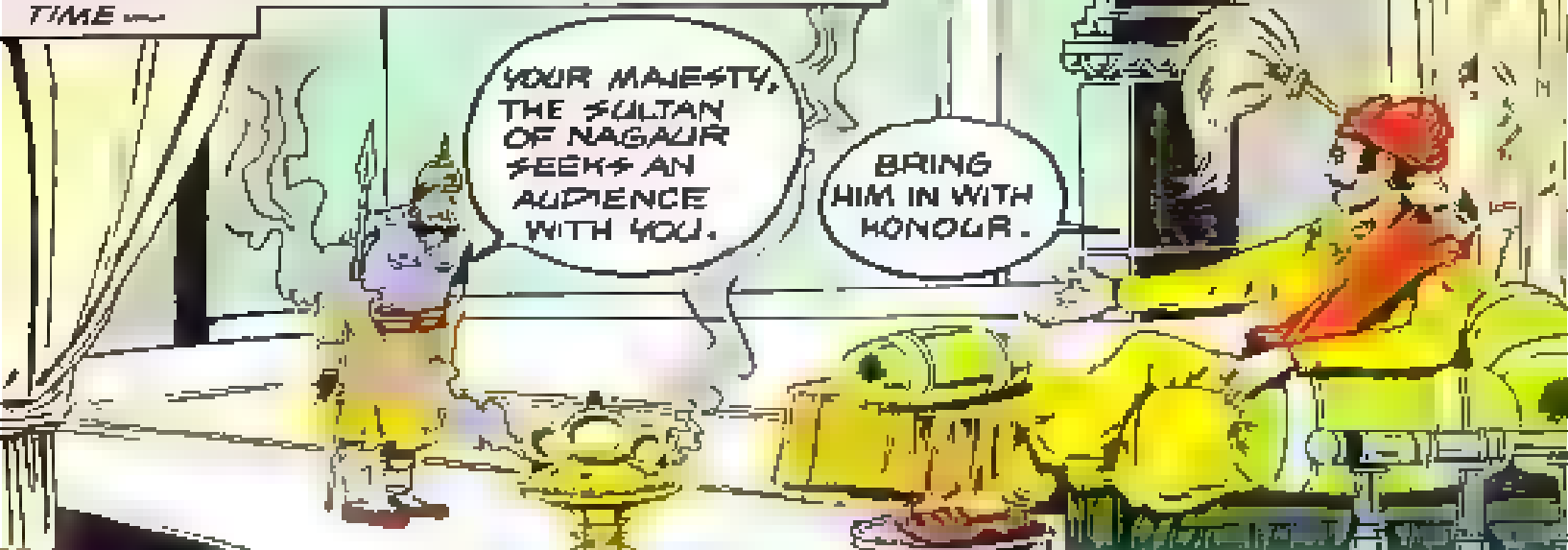


SULTAN MAHMUD KHILJI WAS ONCE AGAIN DEFEATED BY THE RANA AND HAD TO FLEE.

MEANWHILE, WORK ON THE RANA'S VICTORY PILLAR CONTINUED. IT WAS COMPLETED IN 1448.



ONE DAY, KUMBHA WAS RELAXING IN HIS PALACE AT KUMBHALGARH* AFTER DEFEATING THE SULTAN OF NAGPUR FOR THE THIRD TIME.



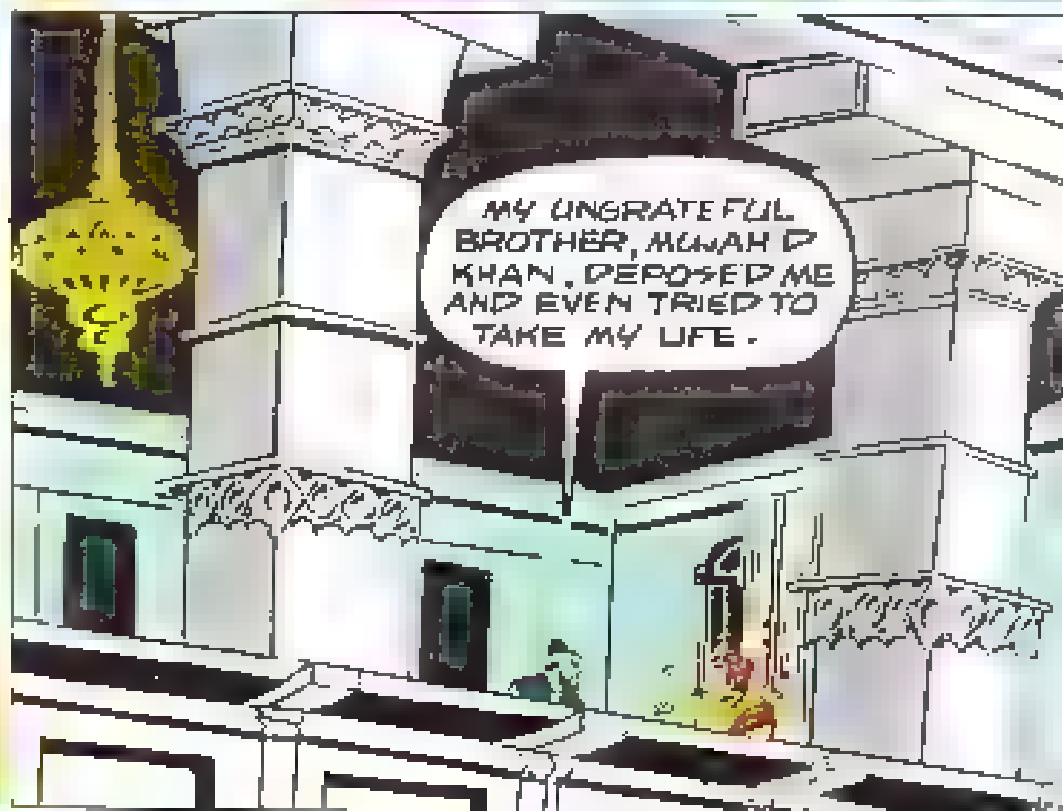
YOUR MAJESTY,
THE SULTAN
OF NAGPUR
SEEKS AN
AUDIENCE
WITH YOU.

BRING
HIM IN WITH
HONOUR.

SHAMSHAN, THE SULTAN
OF NAGPUR, ENTERED.



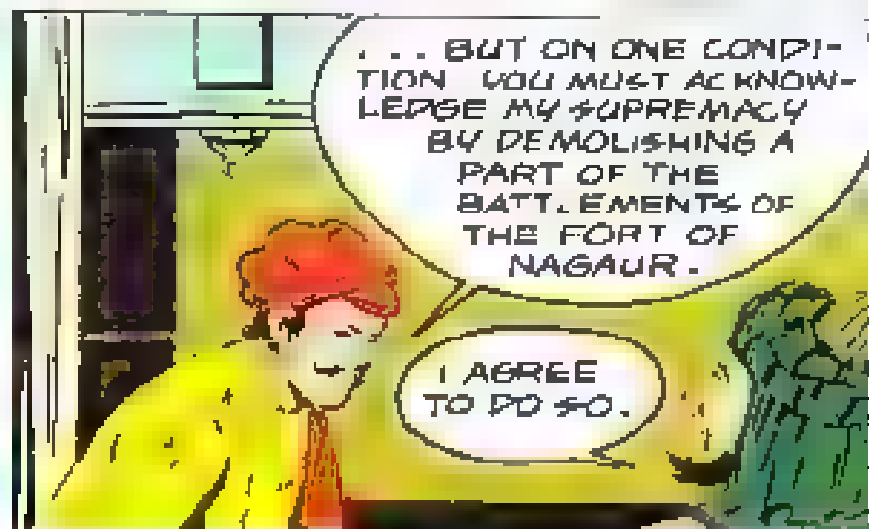
MAHA-
RANA, I
SEEK YOUR
REFUGE
AND
HELP.



MY UNGRATEFUL
BROTHER, MUHAMMAD
KHAN, DEPOSED ME
AND EVEN TRIED TO
TAKE MY LIFE.



SULTAN,
I'LL RE-
STORE YOUR
KINGDOM
TO YOU...



... BUT ON ONE CONDI-
TION YOU MUST ACKNOW-
LEDGE MY SUPREMACY
BY DEMOLISHING A
PART OF THE
BATTLEMENTS OF
THE FORT OF
NAGPUR.

I AGREE
TO DO SO.

* THE FORT BUILT BY KUMBHA ON A HIGH PEAK OF THE WESTERN RANGE OF THE ARAVALI HILLS

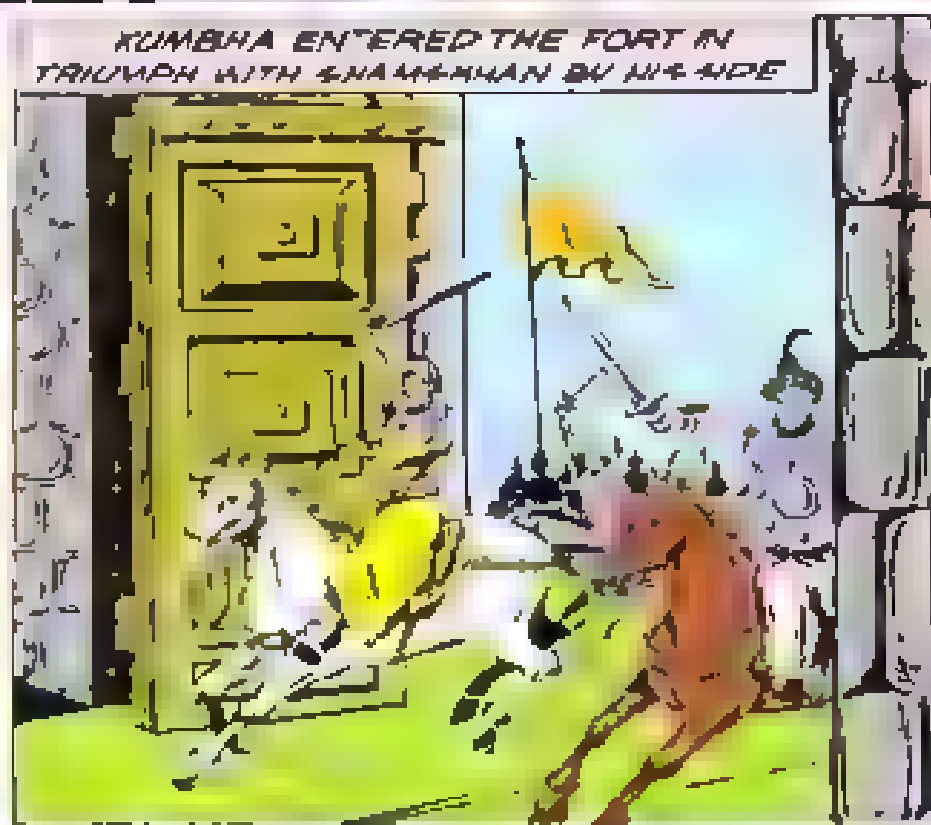
KUMBHA ADVANCED UPON NAGOUR AND STORMED THE FORT.



AS MUJAND KHAN FLED FOR HIS LIFE . . .



KUMBHA ENTERED THE FORT IN TRIUMPH WITH SHAMSHKHAN BY HIS SIDE



KUMBHA PLACED SHAMSHKHAN ON THE THRONE.



LATER SOME OF SHAMSHKHAN'S COUNCILLORS CALLED ON HIM.

KULTAN,
YOU SHOULD
NOT DEMOLISH
THE BATTLEMENTS
IT WOULD BE
INSULTING TO
YOU.

I WILL
SEE WHAT
I CAN DO
TO PUT IT
OFF

SHAMSHKHAN CALLED
ON KUMBHA.

RAJA I HAVE NOT FOR-
GOTTEN MY PROMISE TO
DEMOLISH A PART OF
THE BATTLEMENTS OF
THE FORT. I REQUEST
YOU TO GIVE ME A
LITTLE MORE
TIME.

ALL RIGHT
YOU MAY HAVE
SOME MORE
TIME.

AND KUMBHA RETURNED TO KUMBHAL-
GARH, A FEW DAYS LATER—

RAJA SHAMSHKHAN HAS NO
INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT
HIS PROMISE. INSTEAD OF
DEMOLISHING THE BATTLE-
MENTS, HE IS BUSY
STRENGTHENING THEM

HE HAS
BETRAYED
ME! I CAN'T
ALLOW HIM
TO GET AWAY
WITH IT!

KUMBHA MARCHED TO NAGOUR AGAIN AND TOOK THE FORT AFTER DRIVING OUT SHAMSHKHAH.

DEMOLISH THE FORTIFICATIONS!

SHAMSHKHAH FLED TO AHMEDABAD AND SOUGHT THE HELP OF QUTB UDDIN, SULTAN OF GUJARAT.

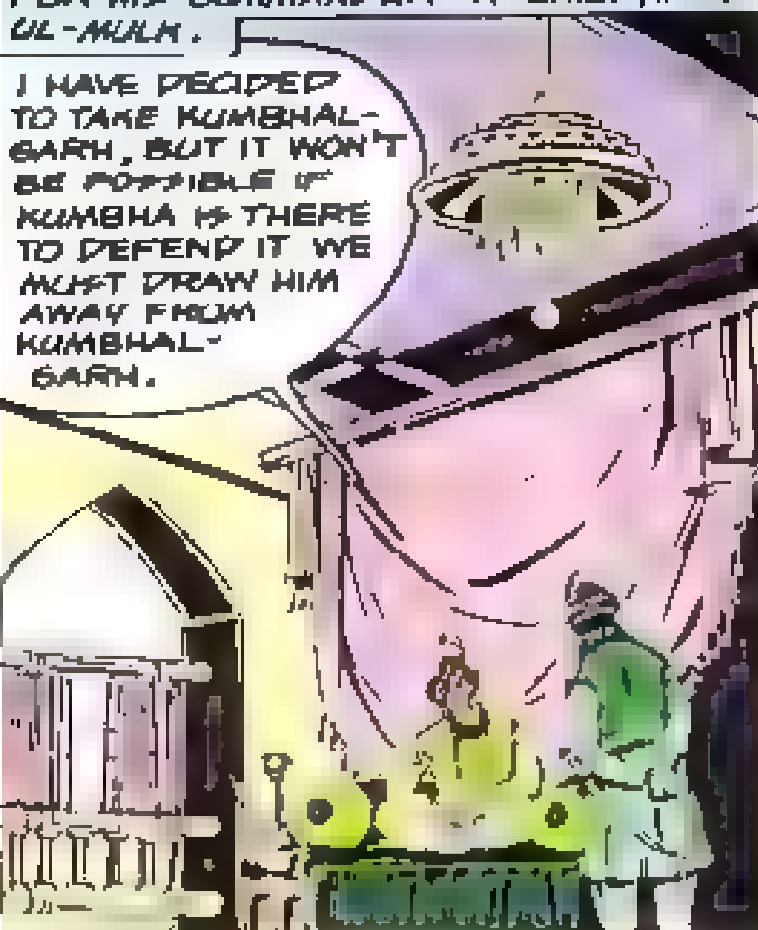
SHAMSHKHAH,
I'LL DRIVE
KUMBHA OUT
OF NAGOUR.

WE MUST MAKE
THOROUGH PREPARA-
TIONS KUMBHA IS NO
ORDINARY MILITARY
COMMANDER

THE SULTAN OF GUJA-
RAT SENT HIS SOLDIERS
TO NAGOUR, BUT THEY
WERE EASILY DEFEAT-
ED BY KUMBHA.

THE ENRAGED QUTB-UD-DIN SENT FOR HIS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, IMAD-UL-MULK.

I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE KUMBHALGARH, BUT IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE IF KUMBHA IS THERE TO DEFEND IT. WE MUST DRAW HIM AWAY FROM KUMBHALGARH.



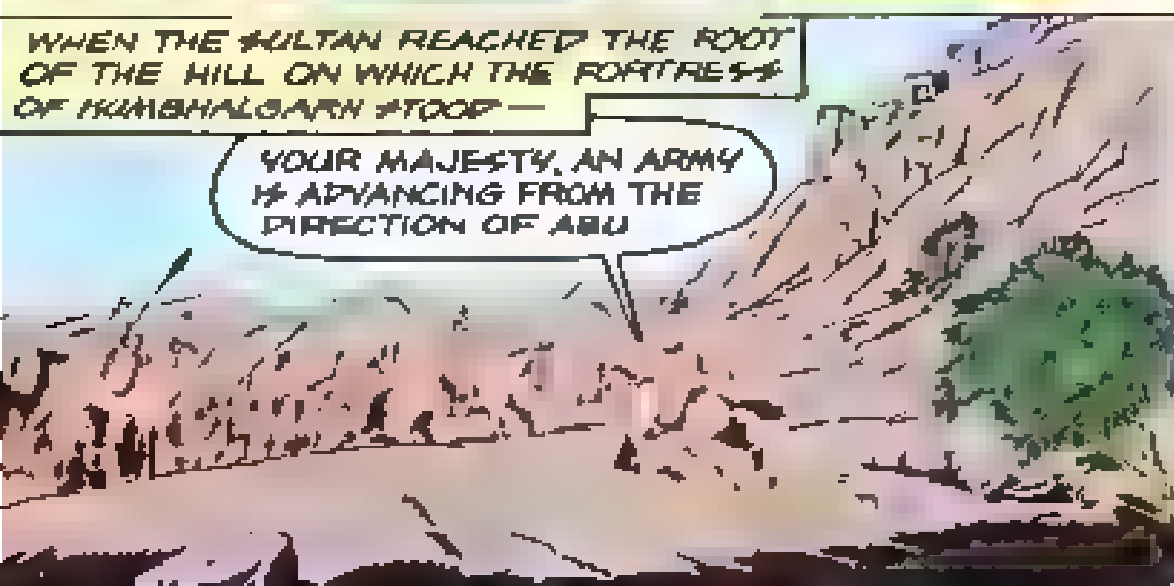
YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE HEARD THAT KUMBHA IS CAMPING AT FORT ABU. I WILL LAY SIEGE TO ABU.

YES, DO THAT AND KEEP HIM BUSY WHILE I INVADE KUMBHALGARH.



WHEN THE SULTAN REACHED THE FOOT OF THE HILL ON WHICH THE FORTRESS OF KUMBHALGARH STOOD —

YOUR MAJESTY, AN ARMY IS ADVANCING FROM THE DIRECTION OF ABU



WHAT? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT KUMBHA HAS DEFEATED IMAD-UL-MULK AND IS COMING BACK?



BUT SOON THE SULTAN'S FEARS WERE DISPELLED. IT WAS IMAD-UL-MULK'S ARMY THAT WAS APPROACHING.



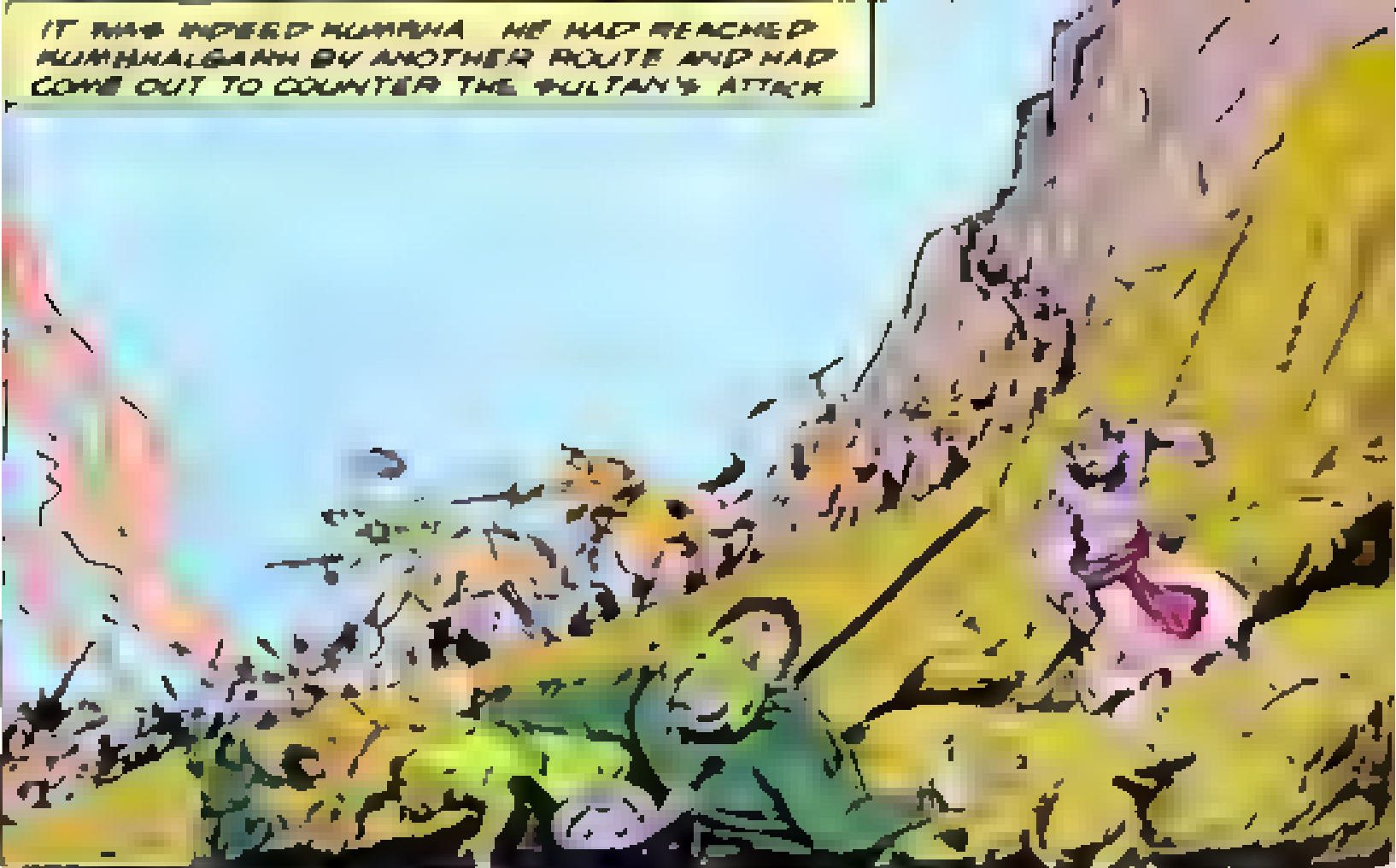
YOUR MAJESTY, OUR ARMY WAS BATTERED BY KUMBHA. WE HAD TO RUN FOR OUR LIVES

YOU DID WELL IN JOINING ME. WE'LL TAKE KUMBHALGARH WHILE KUMBHA IS BUSY CELEBRATING HIS VICTORY AT ABU.

BUT AS THE SULTAN BEGAN TO CLIMB THE HILL WITH HIS ARMY —

IT'S KUMBHA!

IT WAS INDEED KUMBHA HE HAD REACHED KUMBHALGARH BY ANOTHER ROUTE AND HAD COME OUT TO COUNTER THE SULTAN'S ATTACK



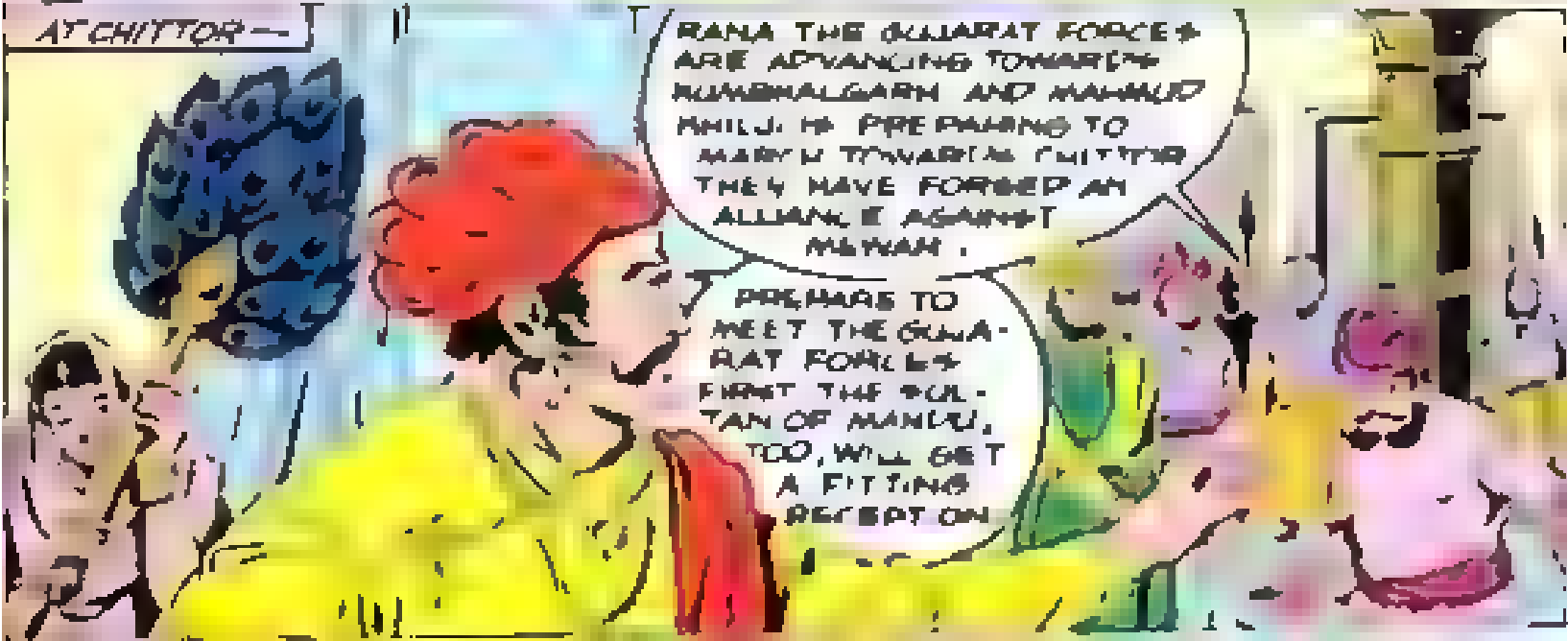
KUMBHA DEFEATED THE SULTAN OF GUJARAT WHO WAS FORCED TO RETRACE HIS STEPS ON HIS WAY BACK

SULTAN, I AM TEJ KHAM, THE PRIME MINISTER OF SULTAN KHILJI. IF THE FORCES OF MALWA AND GUJARAT JOIN HANDS, KUMBHA CAN BE EASILY DEFEATED



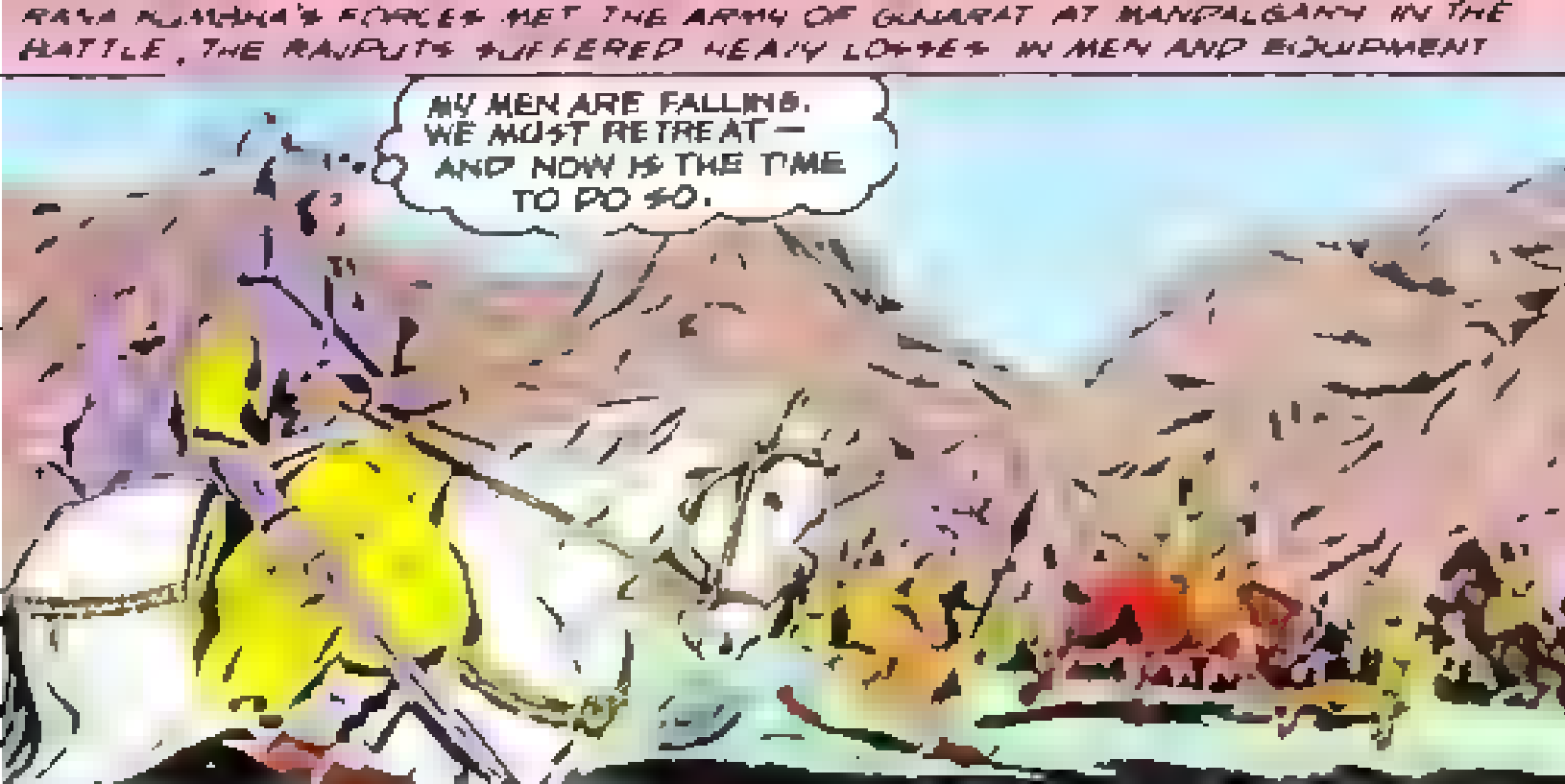
I AM PREPARED TO ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE SULTAN OF MALWA.

AT CHITTOR—

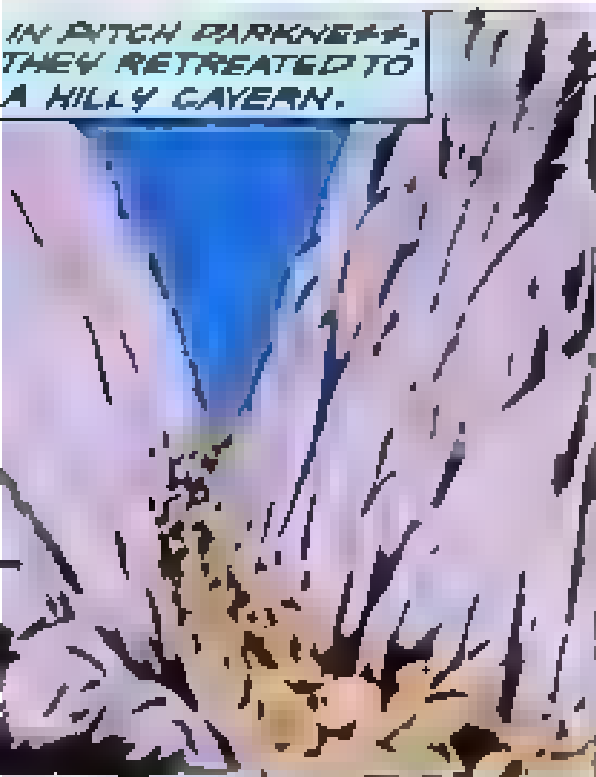


RAMA THE GUJARAT FORCES ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS KUMBHALGARH AND MAHAUD KHILJI IS PREPARING TO MARCH TOWARDS CHITTOR THEY HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE AGAINST MEYNAH.

PREPARE TO MEET THE GUJARAT FORCES FIRST THE SULTAN OF MALWA, TOO, WILL GET A FITTING RECEPTION



IN FITCH PARKNESS,
THEY RETREATED TO
A HILLY CAVERN.



THAT NIGHT RANA KUMBHA CAME TO HIS MEN

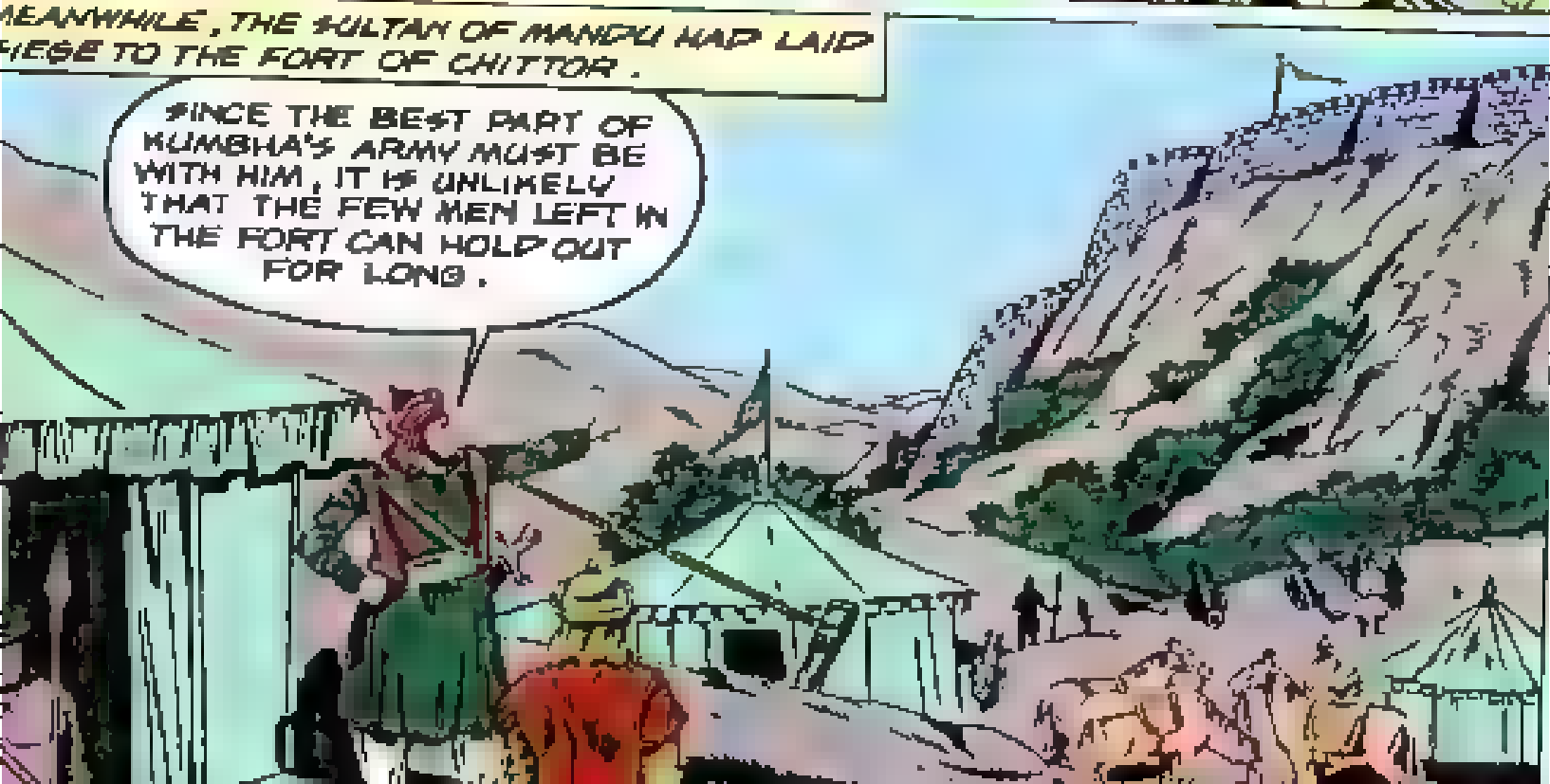
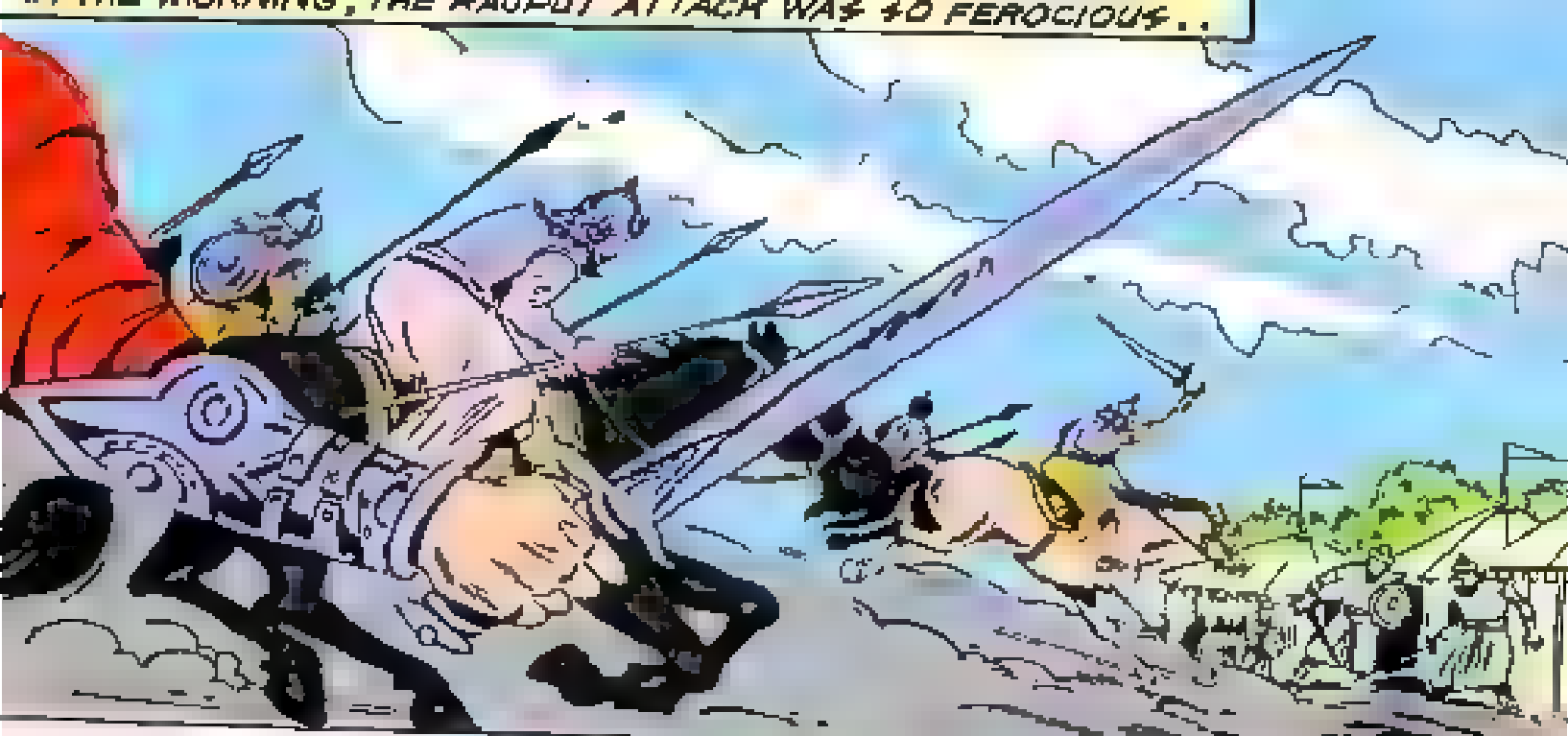
MY BRAVE MEN! IF WE
LOSE THIS BATTLE, THE
SULTAN OF MANDU WILL
OCCUPY CHITTOUR
WHICH IS SACRED
TO US.



THEN TOMORROW MORNING WE
WILL RESUME THE ATTACK WITH
RENEWED STRENGTH THE ENEMY
WILL BE TAKEN UNAWARES, THEY
THINK WE HAVE LOST HEART.

RANA WE
WILL ATTACK!
JAI MEWAR!
JAI EXA-
LINGJI!





BUT HE WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE.

A CLOUD
OF DUST IN
THE EAST!
COULD IT
BE . ?

OH, IT IS
KUMBHA !

THE SURPRISE ATTACK DEMORALISED THE FORCES OF MANDU.

I HAVE TRIED TIME
AND AGAIN TO DEFEAT
THE RANA. HE IS
WYING BLE. I HAVE TO
ACCEPT THIS BITTER
TRUTH



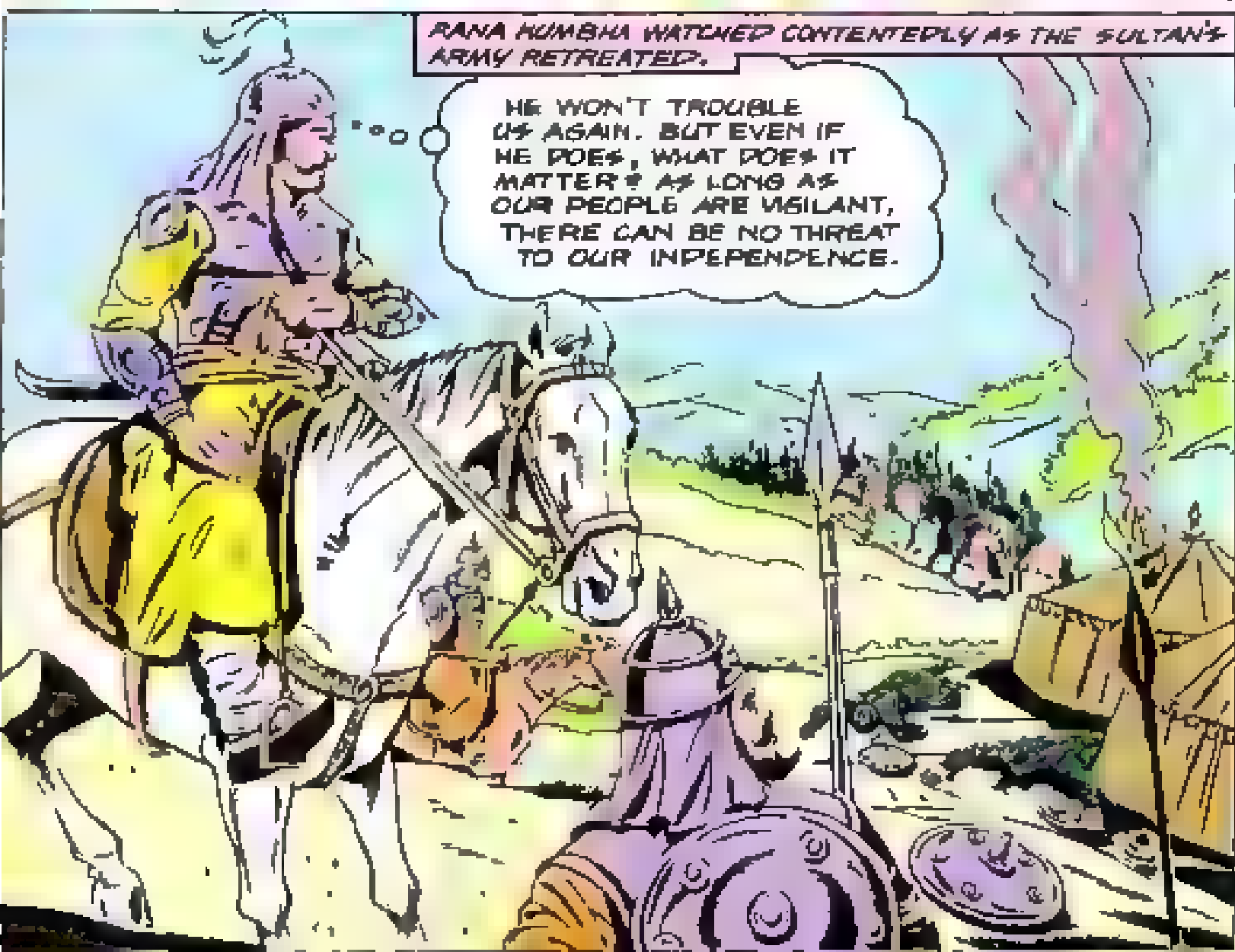
THEN THE SULTAN OF MANDU
CALLED OUT TO HIS MEN.

TURN
AROUND,
MY MEN!
RETREAT!



RANA HUMBHA WATCHED CONTENTELY AS THE SULTAN'S
ARMY RETREATED.

HE WON'T TROUBLE
US AGAIN. BUT EVEN IF
HE DOES, WHAT DOES IT
MATTER AS LONG AS
OUR PEOPLE ARE VISILANT,
THERE CAN BE NO THREAT
TO OUR INPEPENDENCE.





Rana Pratap





Illustrated Classics From India

Rana Pratap

With Akbar coming to the throne of the Mughal Empire in early 1556, the Mughals had become a part of India. As a conqueror, Akbar triumphed all over North India, and subsequently added Gujarat, Bengal, Orissa, Kashmir and Sindh to his empire. He was victorious in Central and South India too. In his efforts to consolidate his empire, Akbar appointed Rajput nobles to the highest posts in his empire. Thus he succeeded in winning the goodwill of the Hindus. The Rajputs flocked to serve him and do him honour.

During this period when almost everyone in Northern India had bowed down before Akbar, only the lone, unbending figure of Rana Pratap stood against him. He refused to accept Akbar's supremacy. Had he agreed to surrender, Rana Pratap could have led an easy and comfortable life in the court of Akbar. But for this brave Rajput warrior king, his freedom was his honour, which he cherished even more than his own life. Greatly outnumbered by Akbar's huge forces, Rana lived a hunted life in the jungles and suffered grave hardships. But these sufferings only spurred him on in his struggle for freedom.

This Amar Chitra Katha presents the tale of Rana Pratap's heroic struggle against the might of the Mughal emperor.

Script: Yagya Sharma Illustrations: Pratap Mulick Cover: Pratap Mulick

Rana Pratap



RAJASTHAN IN WESTERN INDIA WAS THE HOME OF THE JALIAN
RAJPUTS

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THEY HAD REPEATEDLY FOUGHT FOR THE
HONOUR OF THE COUNTRY



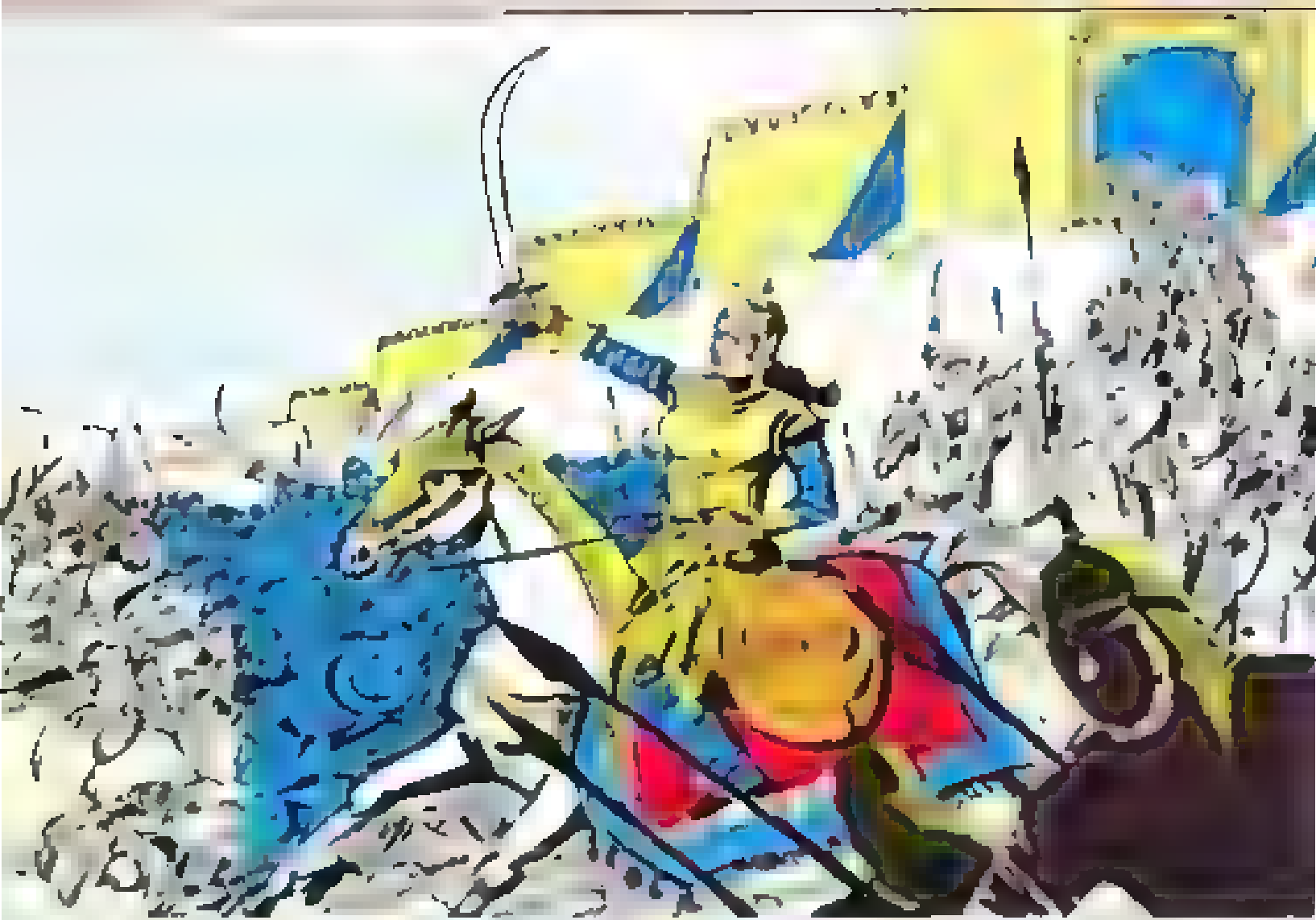
BUT THE RAJPUTS OF CHITTOR SURPASSED ALL IN
DEEDS OF BRAVERY AND PERSONAL SACRIFICE.



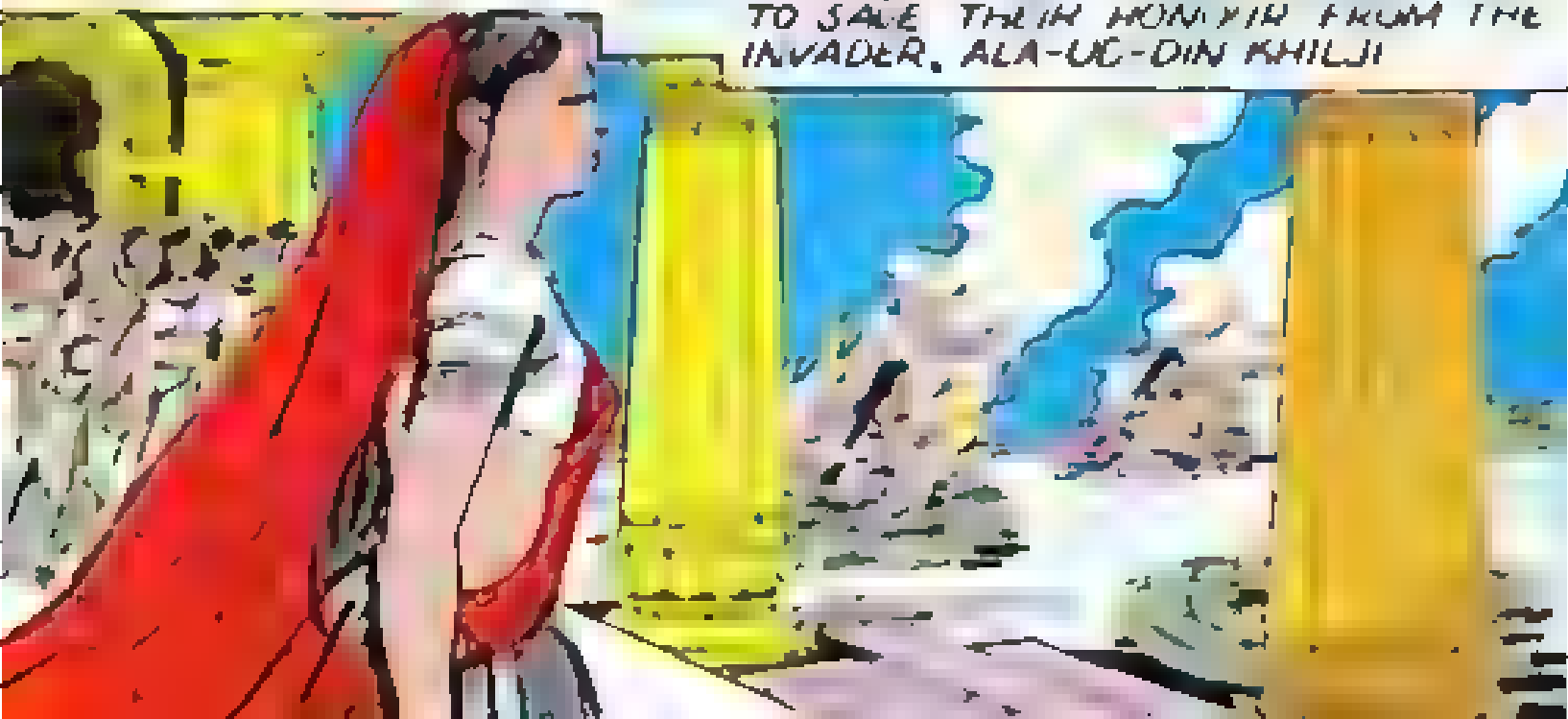
IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY A.D. THEY REPULSED
AN INVASION OF THEIR LAND



AND THEIR WOMEN WERE NO LESS HEROIC CHITTOR'S QUEEN
KARMA DEVI HAD DEFEATED THE FURIOUS HORDES OF QUTAB UD DIN



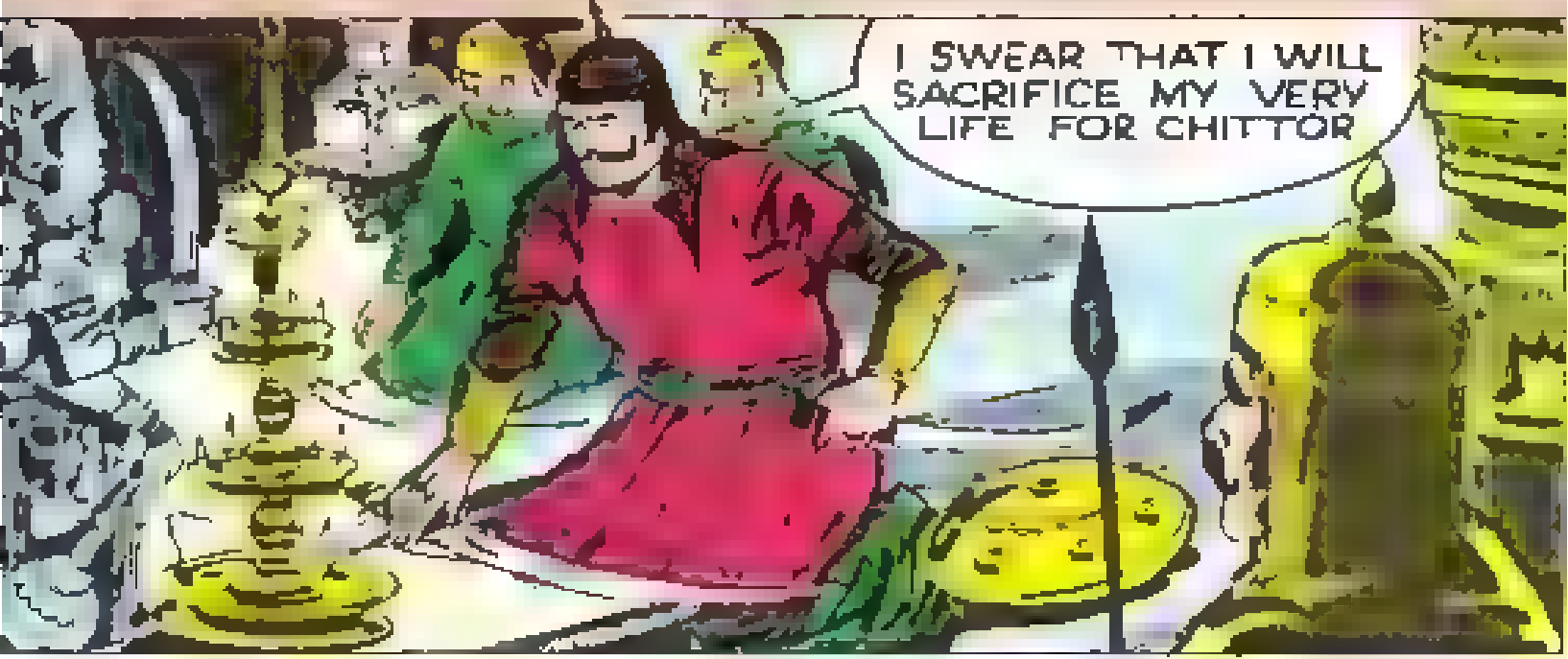
IN THE 14TH CENTURY, QUEEN PADMINI AND HUNDREDS OF RAJPUT
WOMEN OF CHITTOR PERFORMED SATI, AN ACT OF SELF IMMOLATION
TO SAVE THEIR HONOR FROM THE
INVADER, ALA-UD-DIN KHILJI

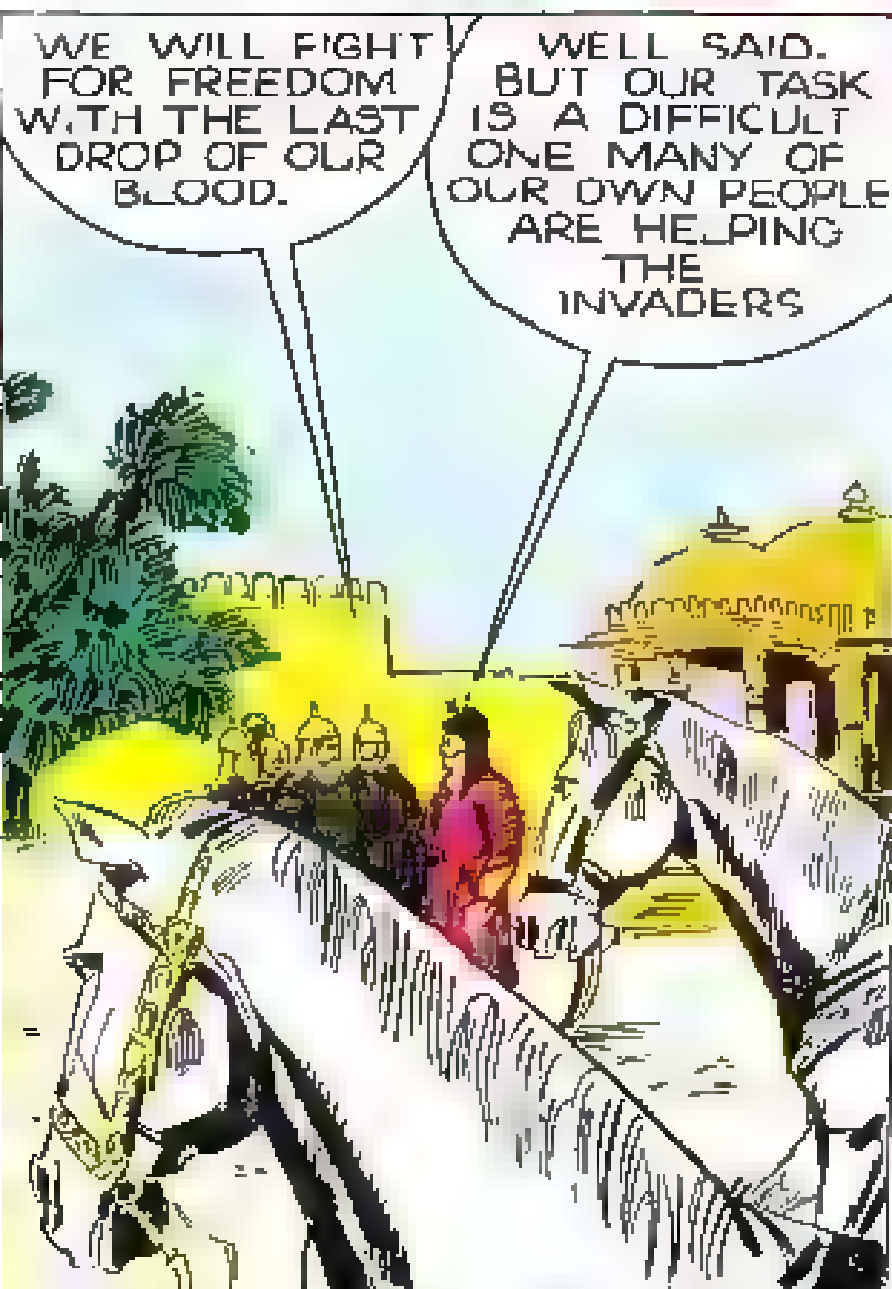
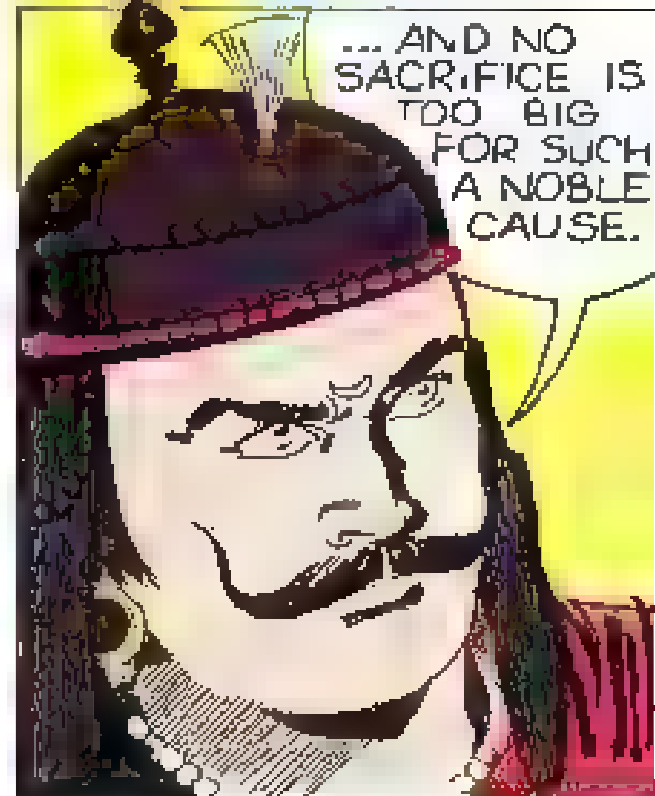


THE MUGHALS WERE THE FIRST INVADERS WHO SUCCEEDED IN OCCUPYING CHITTOR



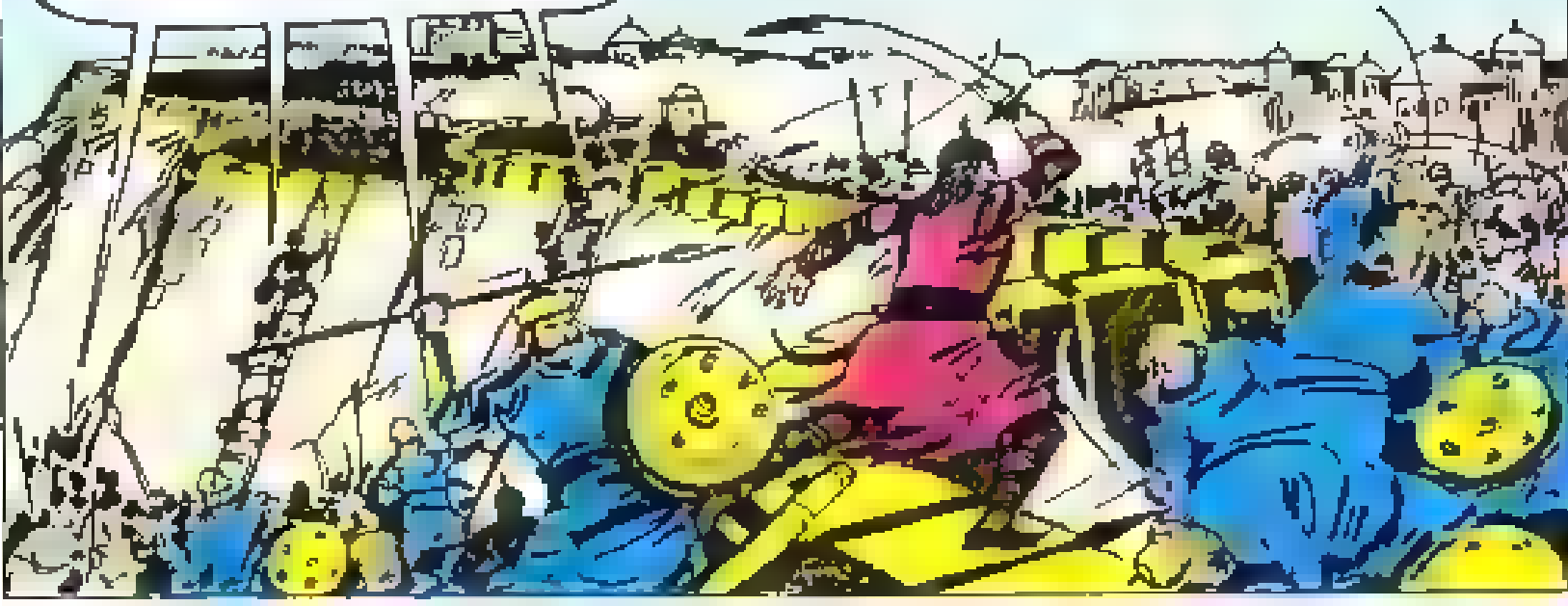
ALMOST ALL MAJOR RAJPUT KINGS HAD SURRENDERED TO THE ENEMY BUT RANA PRATAP, THE KING OF CHITTOR, REFUSED TO





30. A HANDFUL OF RAMA PRATAP'S WARRIORS ATTACKED A FORT, UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION, NEAR CHITTOR.

HAR HAR MAHADEV!

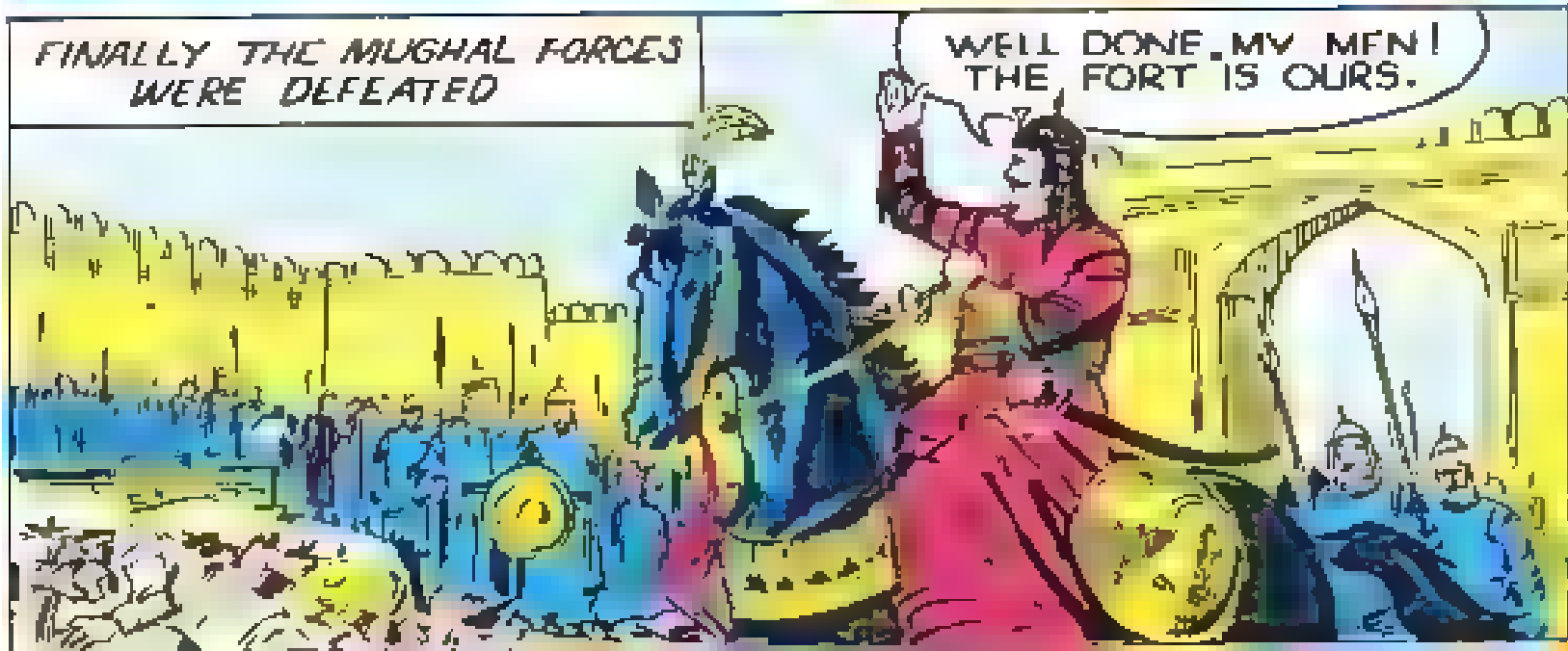


OM CHANDI!



FINALLY THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE DEFEATED

WELL DONE, MY MEN!
THE FORT IS OURS.



THIS VICTORY BROUGHT MANY RAJPUTS FROM CHITTOR TO THE FORT TO JOIN PRATAP'S FORCES.

TELL THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR THAT THOUGH THEY ARE RULED BY THE INVADERS...



...I AM THEIR TRUE KING. I ORDER THAT NOBODY SHALL TILL THE LAND TILL WE ATTAIN FREEDOM.



MEANWHILE, IN THE COURT OF AKBAR

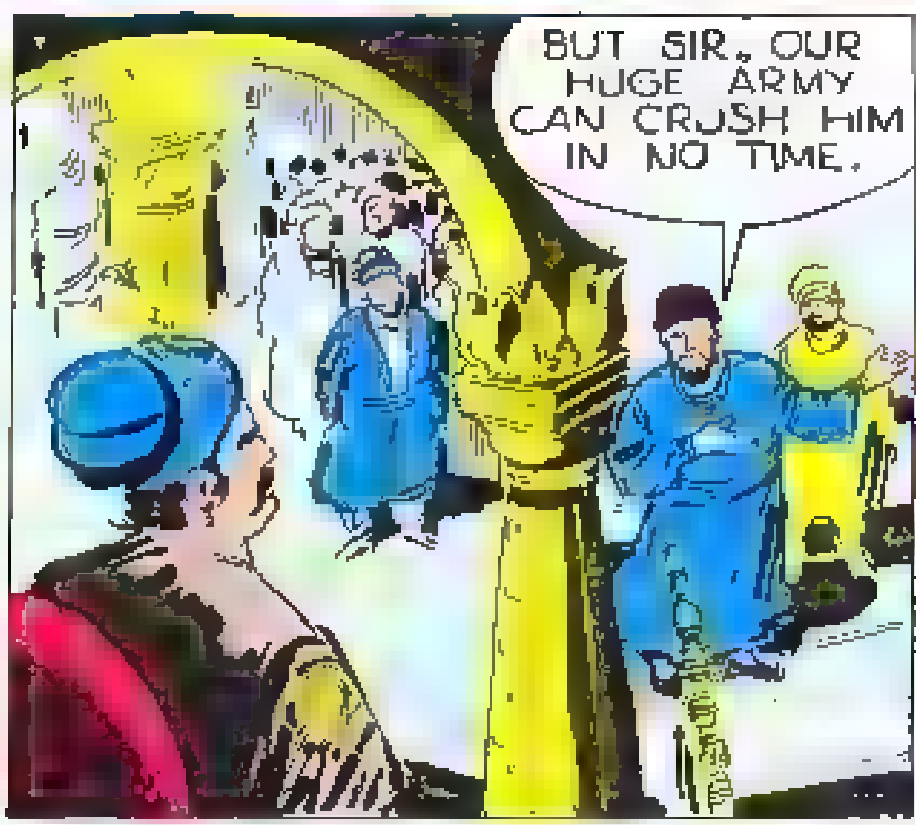


HAVE YOU
HEARD THE LATEST JOKE?
PRATAP STILL CALLS
HIMSELF THE KING OF
CHITTOR

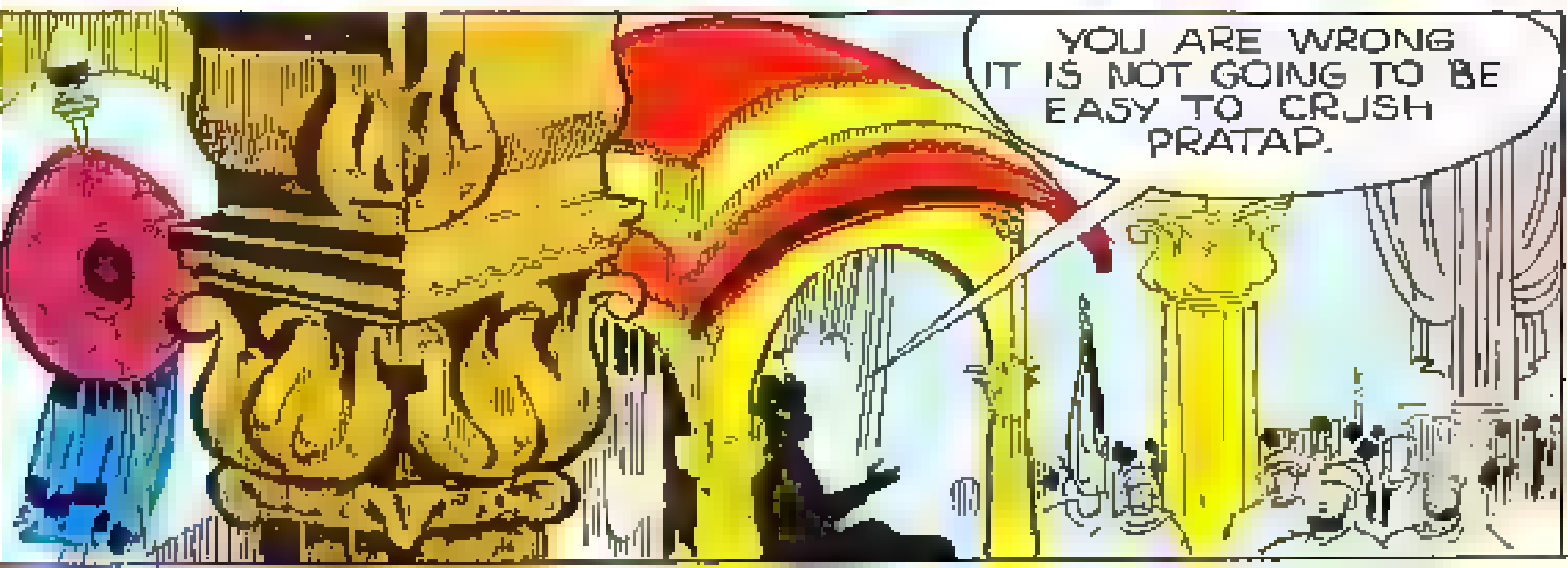
OF COURSE,
HE IS A KING
BUT WITHOUT A
KINGDOM.



SILENCE!
YOU FORGET
THAT PRATAP
HAS TAKEN A
FORT.



BUT SIR, OUR
HUGE ARMY
CAN CRUSH HIM
IN NO TIME.



YOU ARE WRONG
IT IS NOT GOING TO BE
EASY TO CRUSH
PRATAP.

MEANWHILE IN RANA PRATAP'S FORT -

RANAJI! THIS
MAN WAS
TILLING HIS
LAND.



WHY DID YOU
DISOBEY MY
ORDERS ?

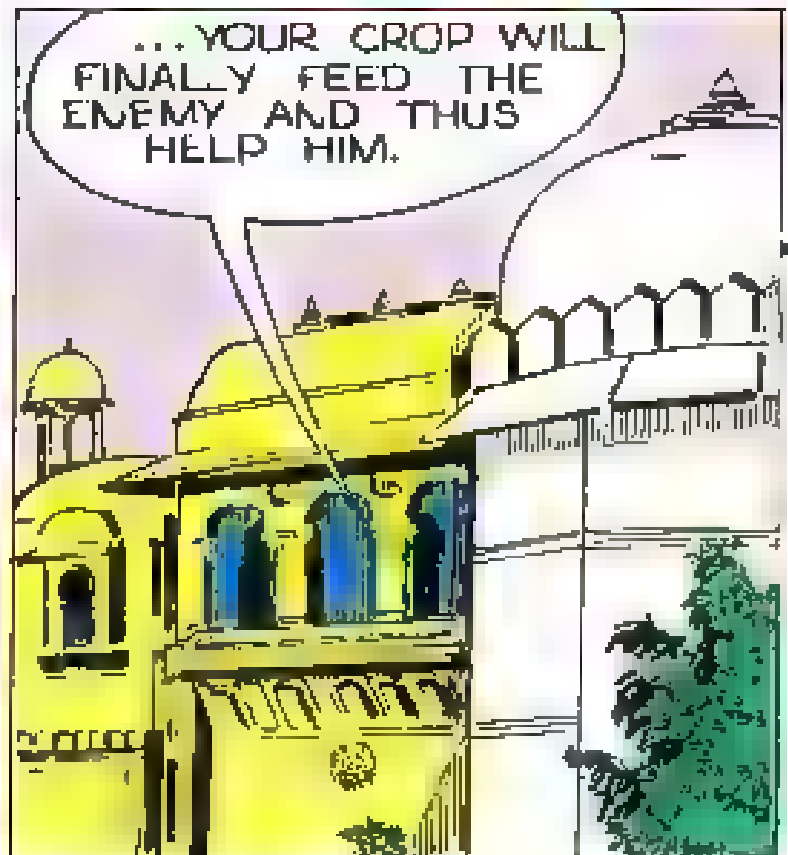


BUT I HAD
TAKEN THE
PERMISSION
OF THE
MUGHAL
GOVERNOR.

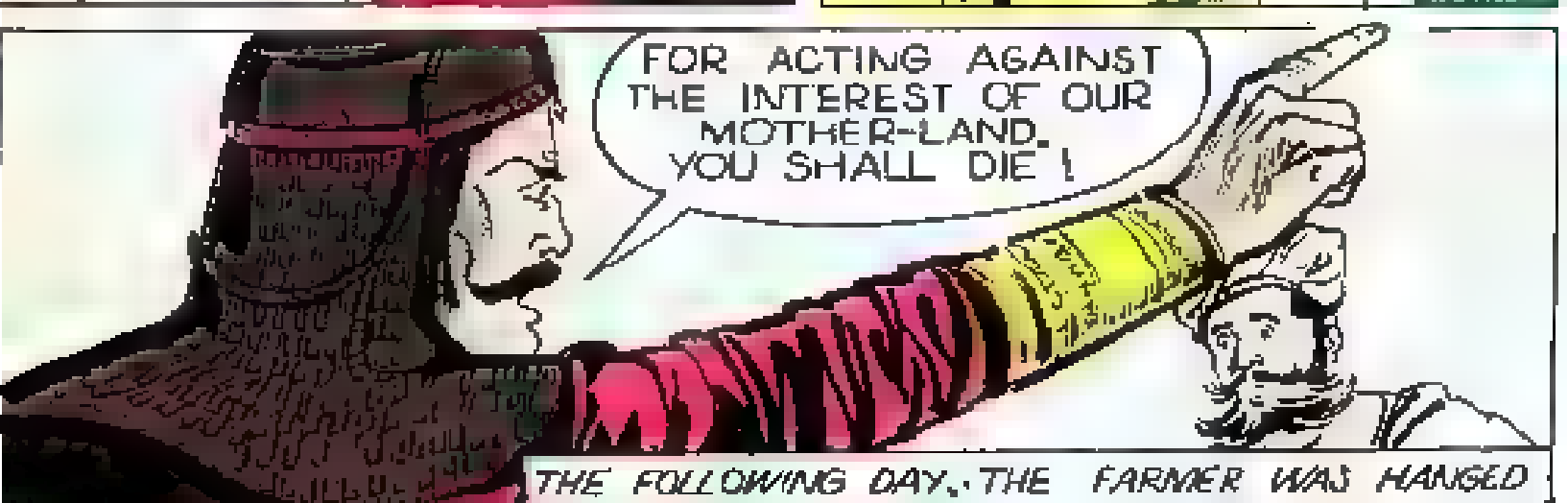


I AM THE KING
OF CHITTOR
AND I HAVE NOT
GIVEN YOU THE
PERMISSION...

...YOUR CROP WILL
FINALLY FEED THE
ENEMY AND THUS
HELP HIM.



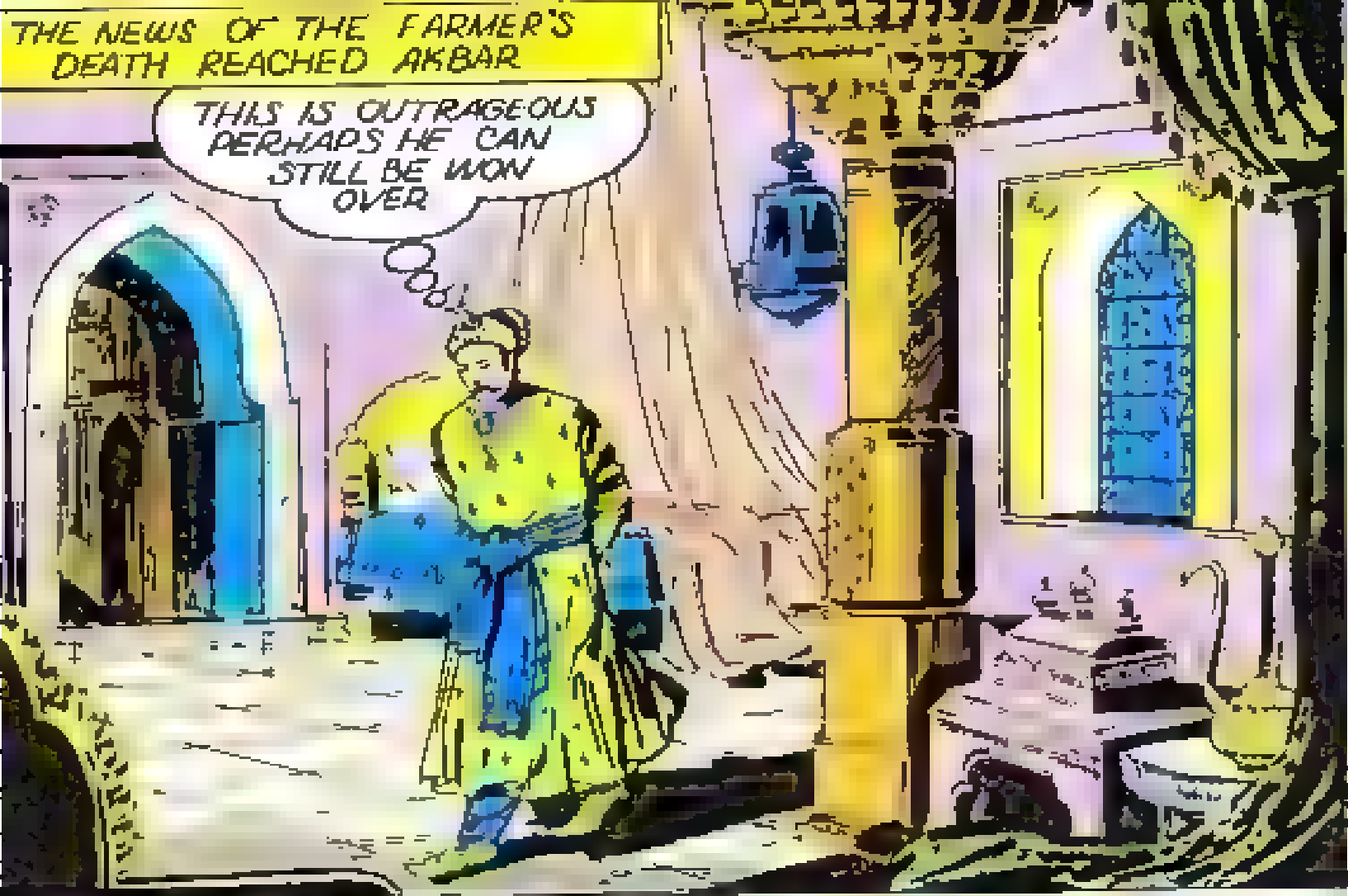
FOR ACTING AGAINST
THE INTEREST OF OUR
MOTHER-LAND,
YOU SHALL DIE !



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FARMER WAS HANGED

THE NEWS OF THE FARMER'S DEATH REACHED AKBAR

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS
PERHAPS HE CAN
STILL BE WON
OVER



AKBAR CONSULTED HIS RAJPUT
COMMANDER, MAN SINGH

A BRAVE MAN LIKE PRATAAP SHOULD
BE OUR FRIEND. RAJA MAN SINGH
PLEASE GO AND ASK HIM TO STOP
THIS REVOLT AGAINST US.

YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR. HIS
FRIENDSHIP CAN BE AN ASSET
TO THE MUGHAL EMPIRE



AND SO MAN SINGH WENT TO MEET RANA PRATAP
HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRATAP'S MINISTER

WELCOME, SIR,
MAN SINGH!

I HAVE A
MESSAGE.
MAHARAJ AKBAR
THE KING OF
BHARAT, SEEKS
RANAJI'S
FRIENDSHIP.

HE MAY BE A KING
FOR YOU, BUT TO US
HE'S AN INVADER,
AN ENEMY.

IT IS TREASON
TO RISE
AGAINST THE
KING.

IT IS NOT
TREASON BUT
OUR SACRED
DUTY TO FIGHT
FOR OUR
FREEDOM.

BUT WHY DON'T
YOU REALISE
THAT YOU CAN'T
DEFEAT OUR
HUGE FORCES

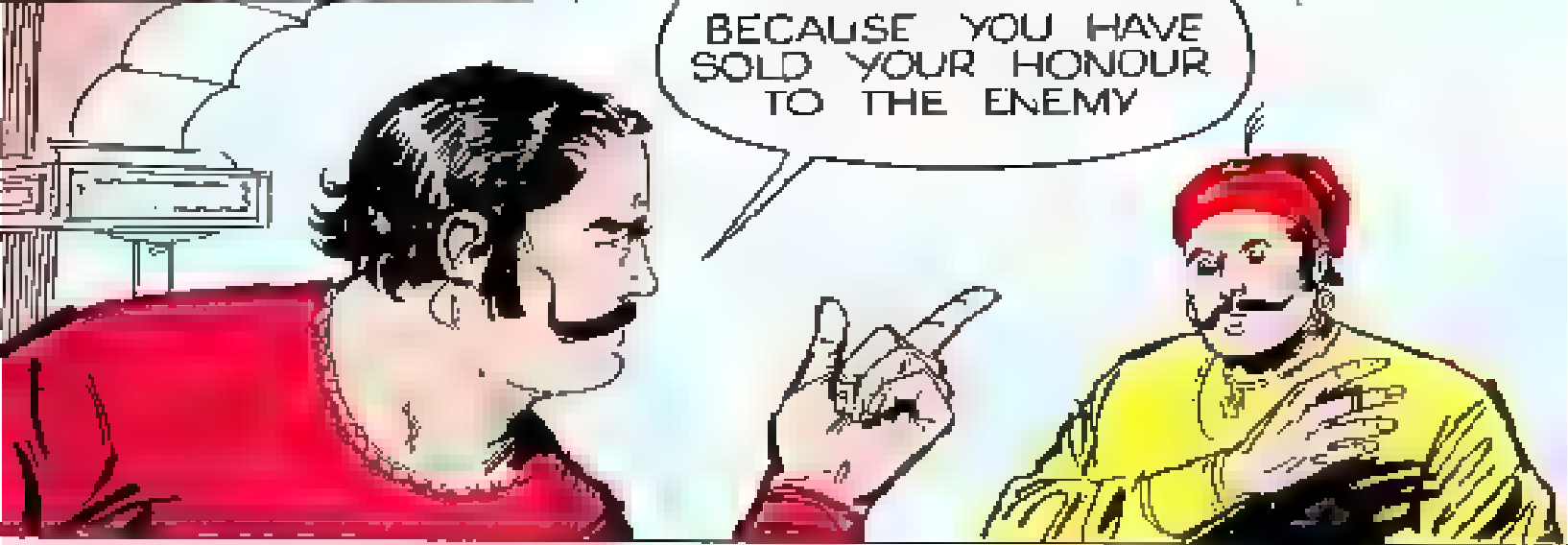
WE SHALL DO
OUR DUTY WHETHER
WE WIN OR
NOT

RANA PRATAP ENTERED WITH HIS SON, AMAR SINGH.

THAT IS ENOUGH FOR NOW, MINISTER WE WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER LATER. RAJA MAN SINGH MUST BE HUNGRY. LET US OFFER HIM OUR SIMPLE FOOD, AMAR

YES FATHER!





BECAUSE YOU HAVE
SOLD YOUR HONOUR
TO THE ENEMY

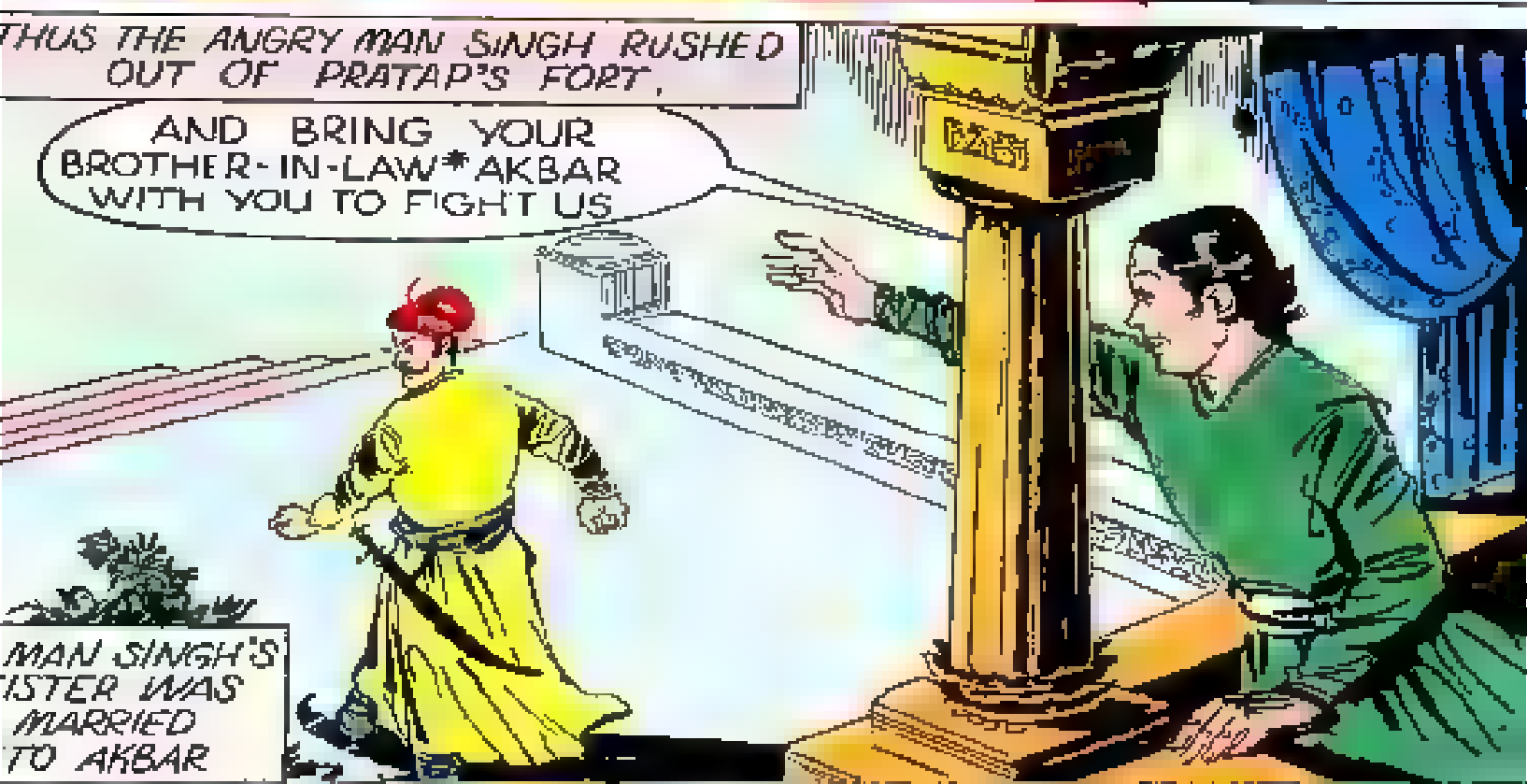


I CAME AS A FRIEND
AND YOU INSULT
ME YOU SHALL
PAY FOR THIS

VERY WELL
THEN WE WILL
MEET ON THE
BATTLE-FIELD

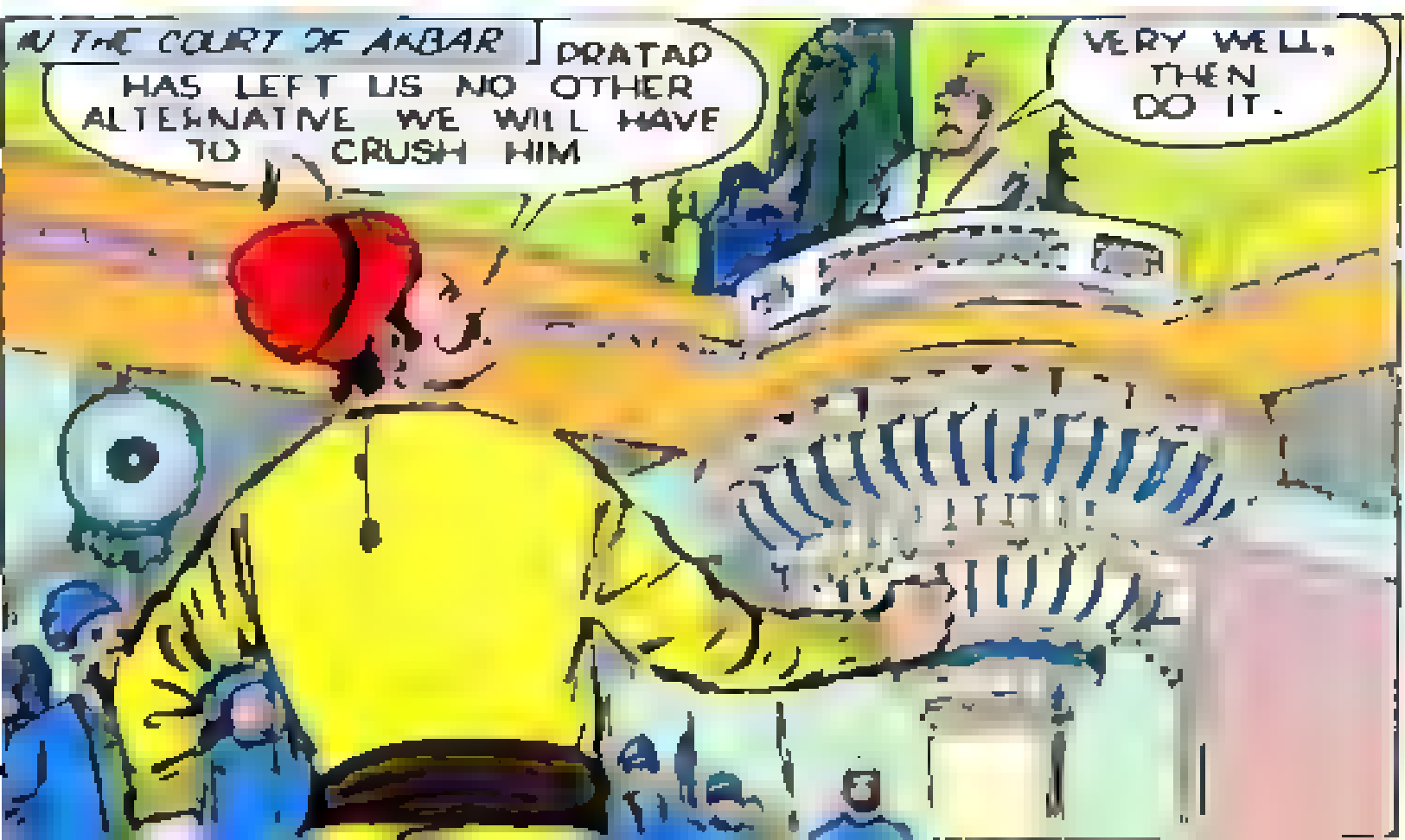
THUS THE ANGRY MAN SINGH RUSHED
OUT OF PRATAP'S FORT.

AND BRING YOUR
BROTHER-IN-LAW*AKBAR
WITH YOU TO FIGHT US



MAN SINGH'S
SISTER WAS
MARRIED
TO AKBAR

SUCH AFTER HAN SINGH LEFT, RANA PRATAP ATTACKED A CAMP OF MUKHAL FORCES AND KILLED MANY OF THEM



IN THE COURT OF ANBAR] PRATAP HAS LEFT US NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE WE WILL HAVE TO CRUSH HIM

VERY WELL, THEN DO IT.

SOON MAN SINGH AND PRINCE SALIM SET OUT WITH A HUGE ARMY.

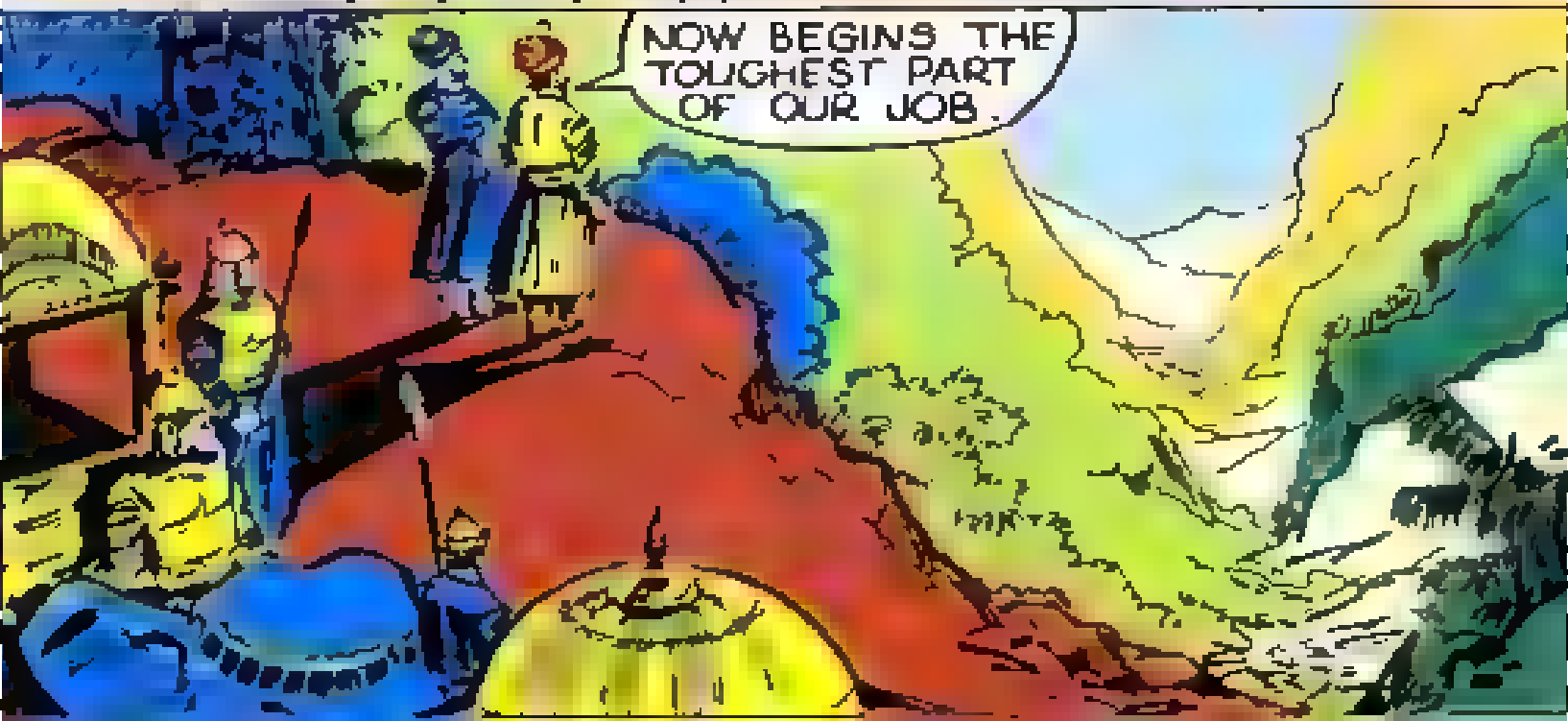


IF WE CAN DRIVE PRATAP OUT OF HIS FORT, THEN OUR TASK WILL BECOME EASY.



YES, WITH OUR LARGE ARMY WE CAN DEFEAT HIM.

FINALLY AKBAR'S FORCES REACHED THE FAMOUS BATTLE-GROUND, HALDI-GHATI, SITUATED IN A NARROW VALLEY.



NOW BEGINS THE TOUGHEST PART OF OUR JOB.

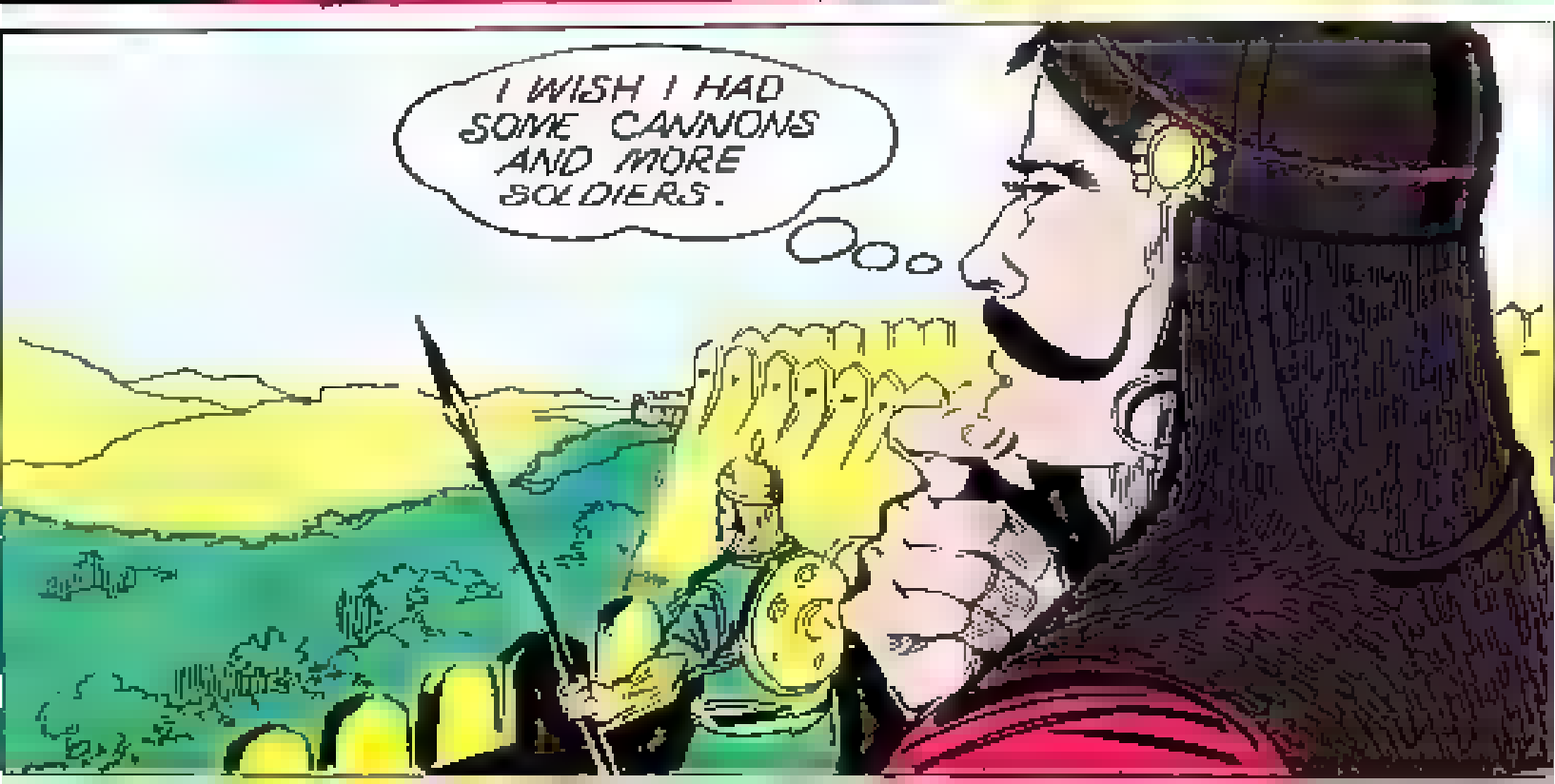
MEANWHILE IN PRATAP'S FORT

RANAJI, OUR SCOUTS
HAVE BROUGHT NEWS
THAT THE ENEMY HAS
80,000 MEN WITH
CANNONS AND
GUNS.

AND WE HAVE
ONLY 22,000
SOLDIERS AND
NO GUNS



I WISH I HAD
SOME CANNONS
AND MORE
SOLDIERS.



MAN SINGH ALSO RECEIVED VITAL INFORMATION.

COMMANDER MAN SINGH,
PRATAP HAS ONLY
22,000 SOLDIERS
AND THEY HAVE NO
GUNS.

THAT IS
GOOD NEWS



THIS MAN PRATAP
MUST BE STUPID
TO CHALLENGE THE
MUGHAL EMPIRE
WITHOUT ENOUGH
SOLDIERS AND
GOOD WEAPONS

BRAVE,
NOT STUPID I
HE IS A TRUE
RAJPUT AND.



. DON'T BE OVERCONFIDENT,
PRINCE. HUGE ARMIES AND
GOOD WEAPONS DO HELP
IN A BATTLE. BUT WHEN
IT COMES TO FIGHTING,
THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR COURAGE





LET US STOP THIS
IDLE CHATTER
AND ATTACK

WE
CAN'T.



BECAUSE THE WAY
TO PRATAP'S FORT
LIES THROUGH THAT
NARROW VALLEY
AND...

WHY
NOT?



PRATAP'S SOLDIERS ARE
WAITING THERE TO TRAP
US. WE WILL HAVE TO
WAIT FOR THEM TO
ATTACK FIRST.

AFTER A LONG WAIT -

WE CAN'T WAIT
INDEFINITELY.
LET US ATTACK
AT ONCE

NO,
PRINCE
SALIM!

SIR, I HAVE FOUND
A LONG BUT EASY
PATH LEADING TO
PRATAP'S FORT



GOOD. TAKE ENOUGH
SOLDIERS AND
ATTACK THE FORT
FROM THE REAR

YES
SIR!

AND A STRONG MUGHAL FORCE MARCHED
OFF TO SURROUND RANA PRATAP'S FORT.

WHEN RANA PRATAP
HEARD ABOUT THIS NEW
TROOP MOVEMENT, HE
WAS WORRIED.

THE BEST
STRATEGY
WOULD HAVE
BEEN TO FIGHT
FROM THE FORT
BUT NOW WE
HAVE TO FACE
THEM IN
HALDI-GHATI.

FINALLY IN THE VALLEY CALLED
HALDI-GHATI -

ATTACK!

PRATAP AND HIS SOLDIERS CHARGED FIERCELY.

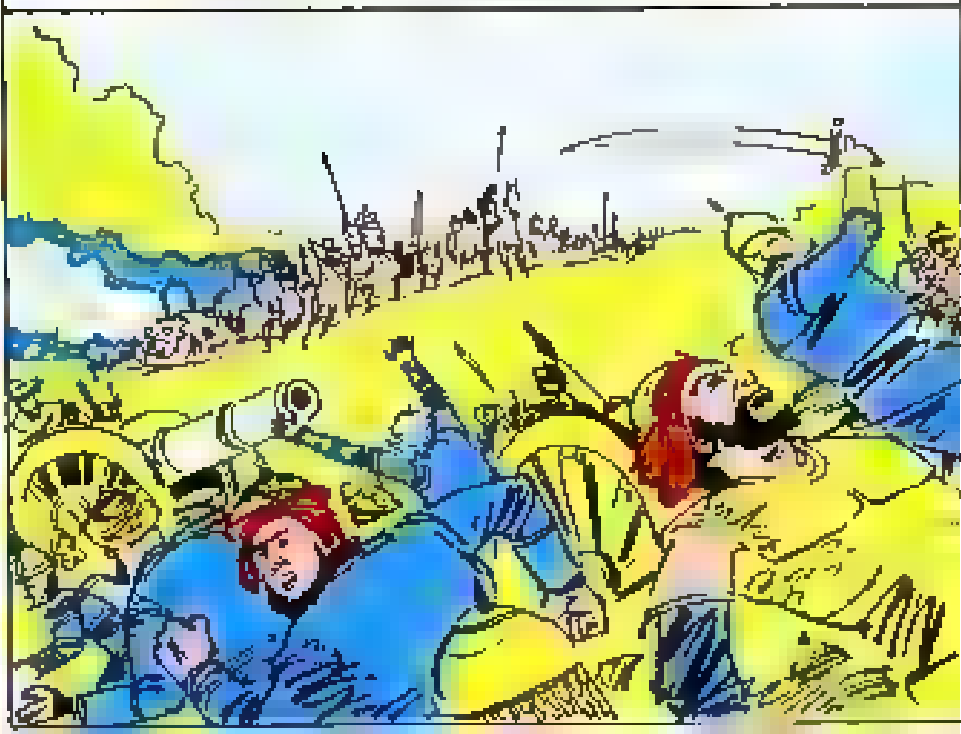
EVEN PRATAP'S FAITHFUL HORSE CHETAK PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE



THE MUGHAL FORCES
SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES



BUT JUST WHEN THE MUGHALS
STARTED TO LOSE, MORE OF THEIR
TROOPS ARRIVED



IN THE AFTERMATHING
THAT FOLLOWED,
RAM PRATAP LOST 15,000 MEN



BUT THE RATTLE CONTINUED



MAN SINGH WAS RIDING AN ELEPHANT
PRATAP ATTACKED HIM LIKE A
FIERCE LION



PRATAP THREW HIS SPEAR AT MAN SINGH, BUT JUST THEN THE
ELEPHANT MOVED AND PRATAP MISSED HIS MARK. MAN SINGH WAS
SAVED.



MEANWHILE PRATAP WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMY SOLDIERS.



FINDING THEIR LEADER IN DANGER, PRATAP'S FRIEND, MANA AND A FEW SOLDIERS RUSHED TO HIS RESCUE.



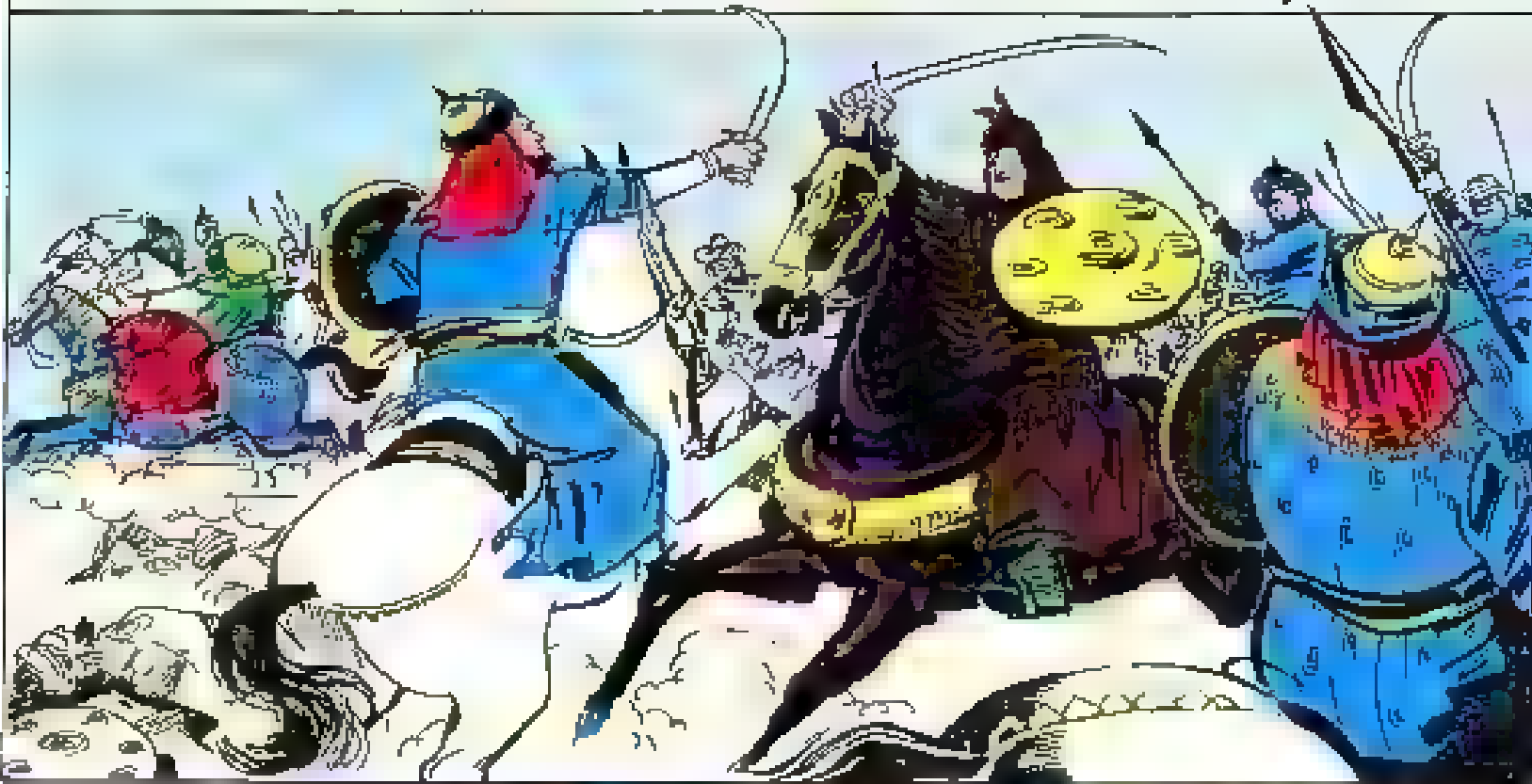
OUR RANA IS WOUNDED. I MUST SAVE HIM.



TO SAVE PRATAP, MANA PLACED PRATAP'S HELMET ON HIS OWN HEAD.



THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS WERE FOOLED. THEY ATTACKED MANA, MISTAKING HIM FOR PRATAP. WHILE MANA FACED THE ENEMY, PRATAP WAS CARRIED AWAY BY HIS FAITHFUL HORSE, CHETAK



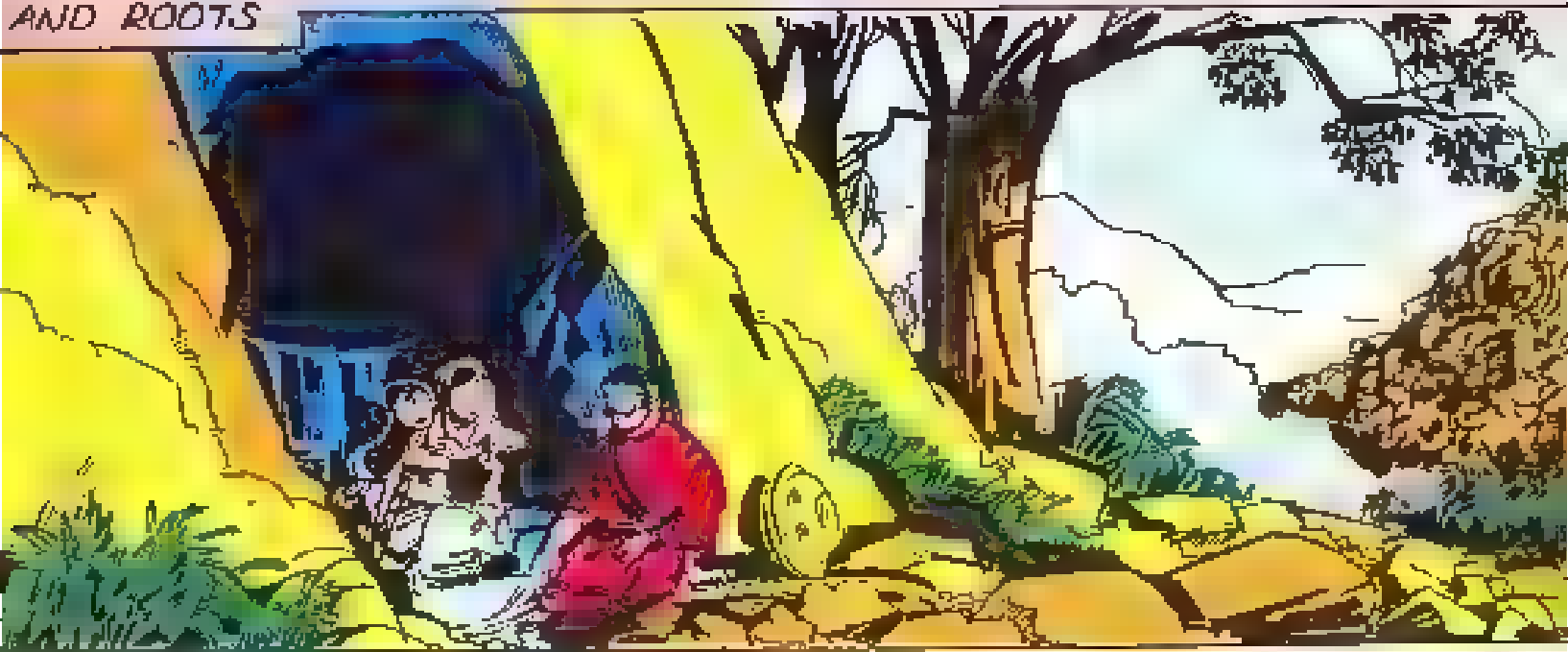
SOME RAJPUT SOLDIERS RODE WITH CHETAK TO PROTECT THE UNCONSCIOUS RANA



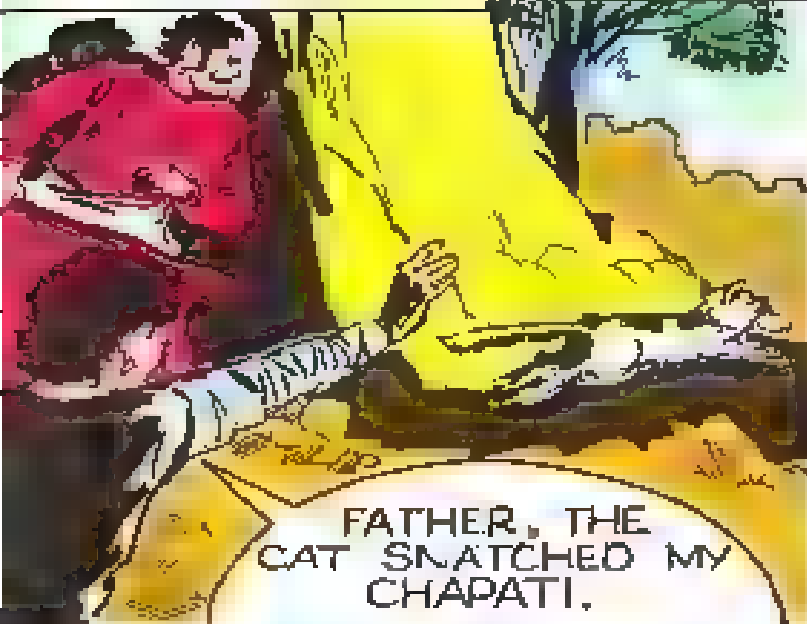
THE WOUNDED PRATAP WAS TAKEN TO A CAVE IN THE JUNGLES



THOUGH PRATAP SURVIVED, HIS FAMILY HAD A HARD TIME FOR SEVERAL DAYS THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT BUT WILD BERRIES AND ROOTS

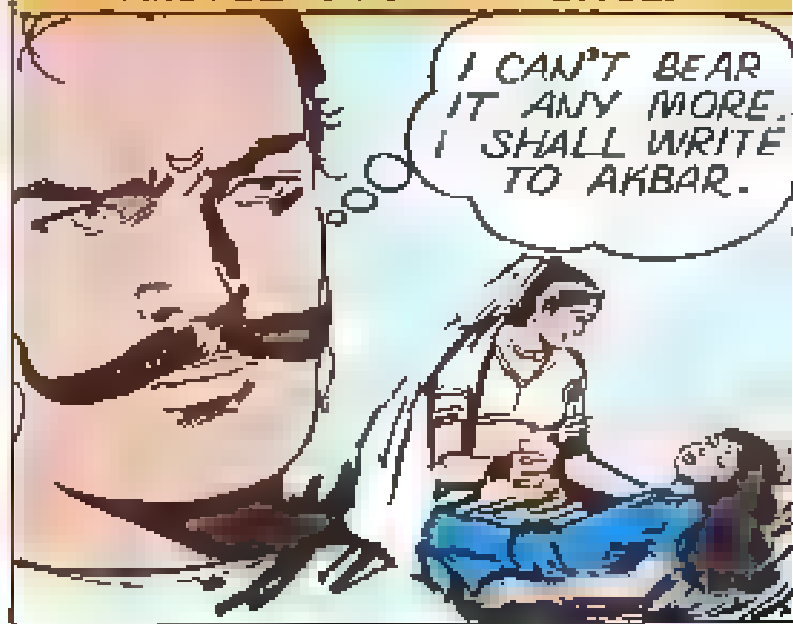


ONE DAY, WHEN PRATAP'S SON, AMAR SINGH, WAS EATING A DRY CHAPATI...

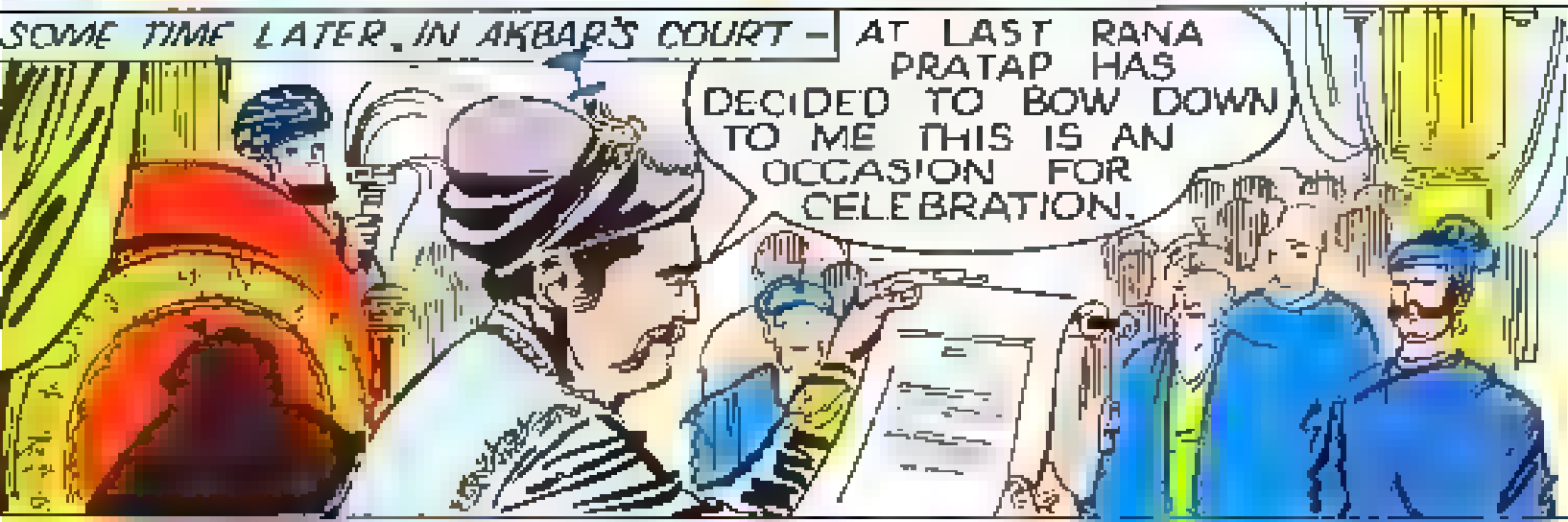


FATHER, THE CAT SNATCHED MY CHAPATI.

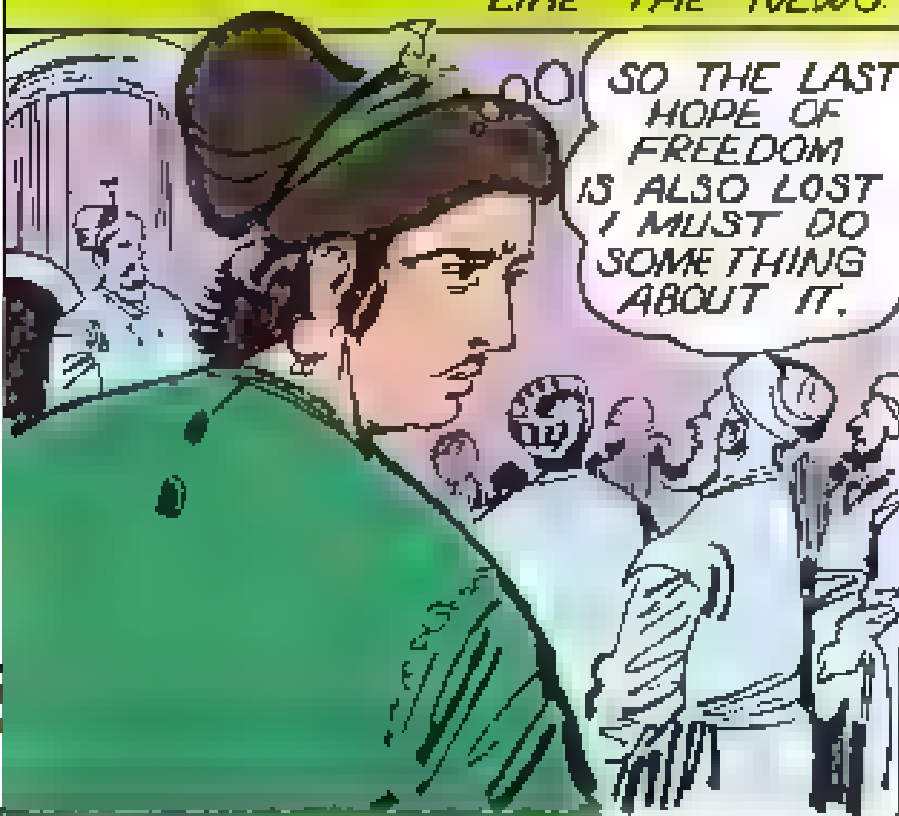
PRATAP'S DAUGHTER, WHO GAVE HER CHAPATI TO HER BROTHER, FAINTED DUE TO HUNGER



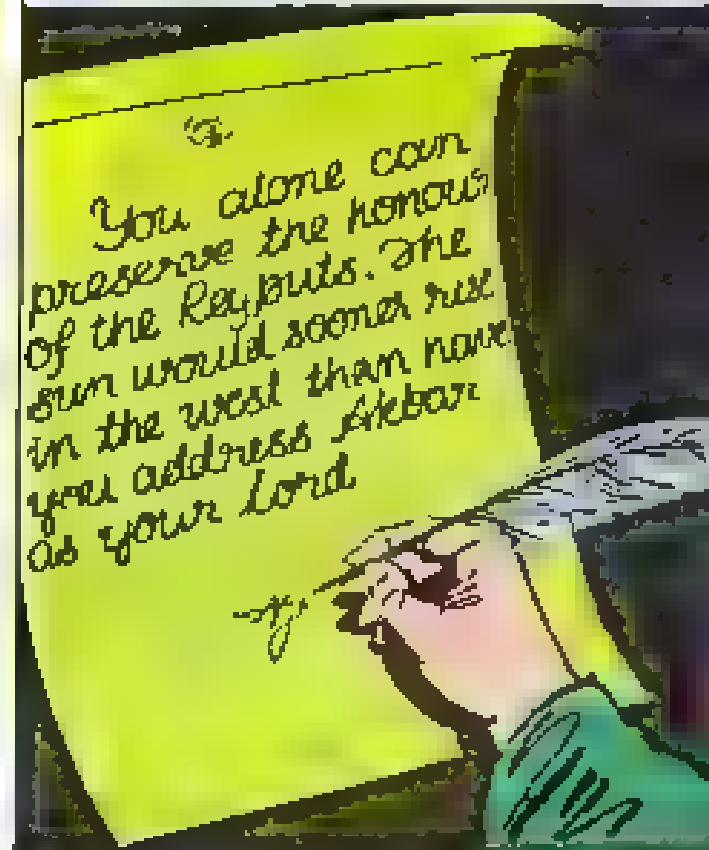
SOME TIME LATER, IN AKBAR'S COURT - AT LAST RANA PRATAP HAS DECIDED TO BOW DOWN TO ME THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR CELEBRATION.



PRITHVIRAJ, A RAJPUT POET IN
AKBAR'S COURT, WAS A SECRET
ADMIRER OF PRATAP. HE DID NOT
LIKE THE NEWS.



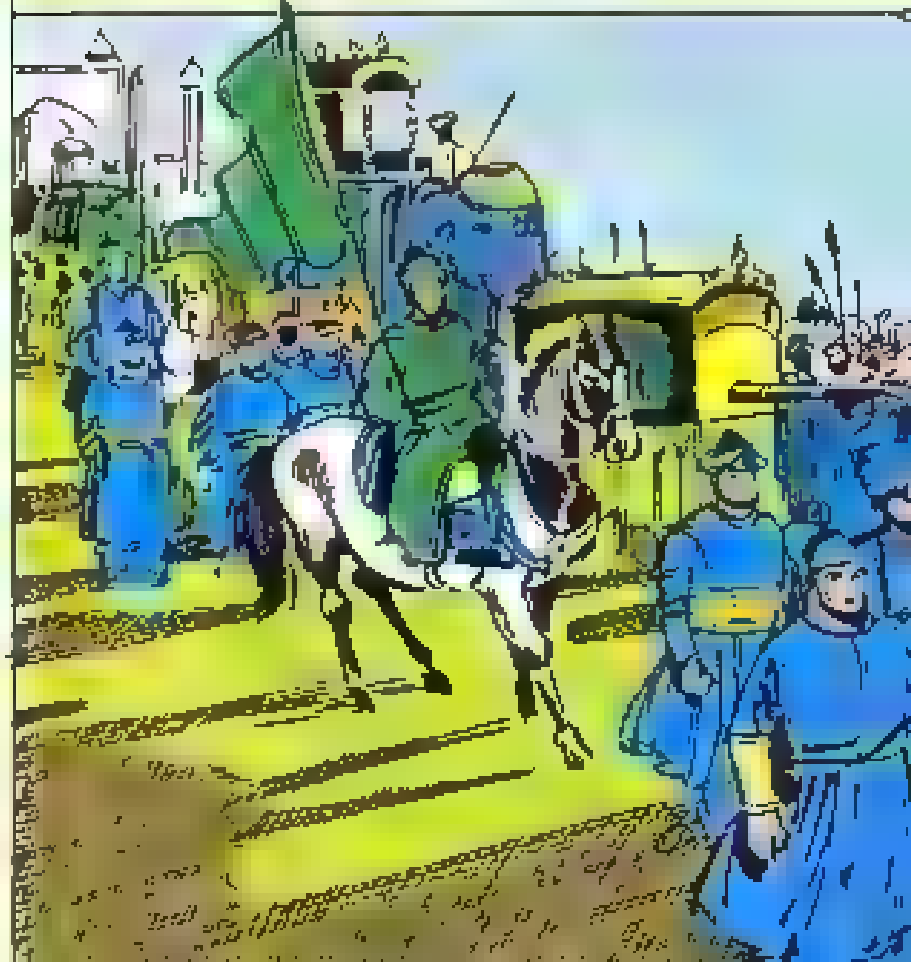
AND POET PRITHVIRAJ SENT
A LETTER TO RANA PRATAP



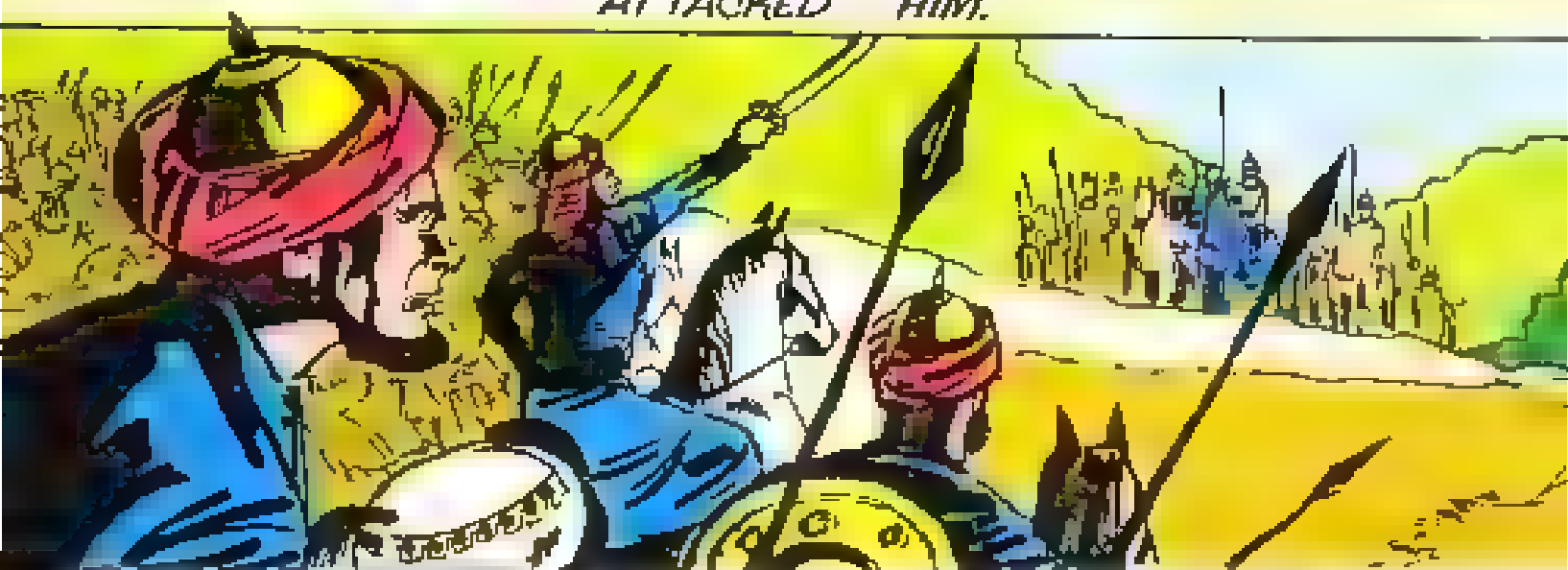
INSPIRING WORDS! I MUST
WRITE TO HIM THAT THE
SUN WILL CONTINUE TO
RISE IN THE EAST
I WILL NEVER BOW
BEFORE AKBAR



UNAWARE OF PRITHVIRAJ'S LETTER,
AKBAR SENT A LARGE BAND OF
SOLDIERS TO ESCORT PRATAP FROM
THE JUNGLES.

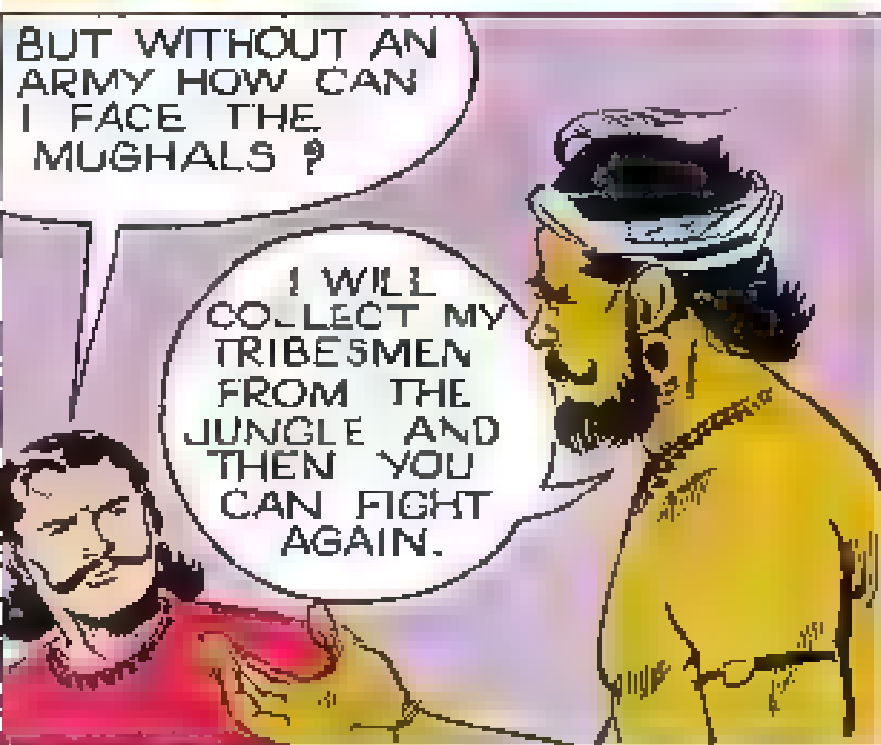
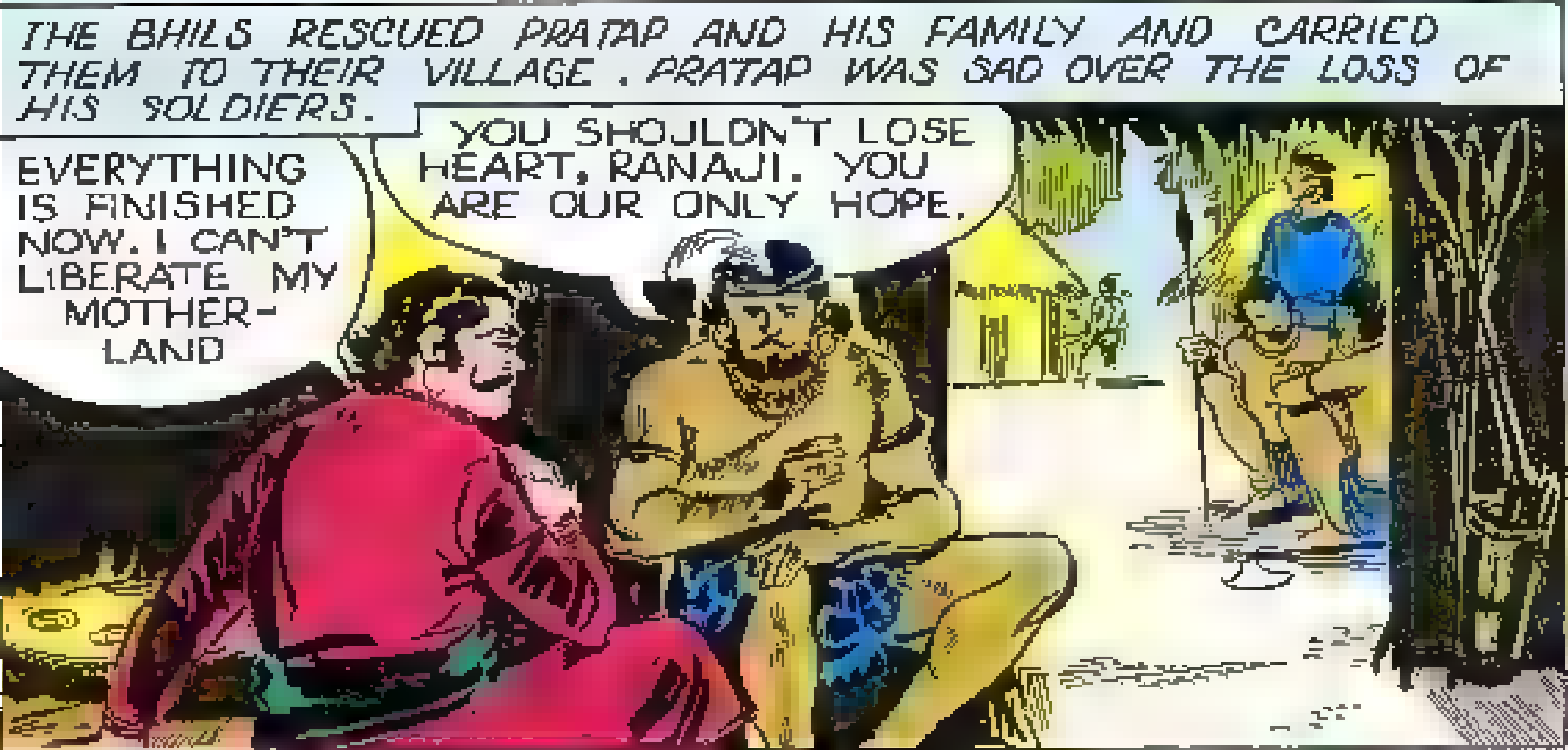


WHEN RANA PRATAP REFUSED TO GO WITH THEM, THE SOLDIERS
ATTACKED HIM.



SOON ALL THE RAJPUT SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND PRATAP WAS
ABOUT TO BE CAPTURED, WHEN A BAND OF BHIL TRIBALS
ATTACKED THE MUGHALS.





JUST THEN A MESSENGER
ARRIVED.

RANAJI, A PERSON
CALLED BHAMA SHAH
WANTS TO MEET
YOU.

BRING
HIM
IN

RANAJI, I HEARD
THAT YOU NEED
MONEY MY
WEALTH
IS AT YOUR
DISPOSAL.

BUT I CAN'T
ACCEPT YOUR
PERSONAL
PROPERTY

NOTHING REMAINS
PERSONAL WHEN OUR
COUNTRY IS IN TROUBLE
NOW EVERY-
THING
BELONGS
TO
THE
COUNTRY

BHAMA SHAH WAS A
PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN OF CHITTOR.

WITH THE HELP OF THIS HUGE WEALTH, PRATAP RAISED A POWERFUL
ARMY OF BHILS

NOW, WE ARE
PREPARED TO FIGHT
THE MUGHALS
AGAIN.

JAI CHANDI! HAR
HAR MAHADEV!

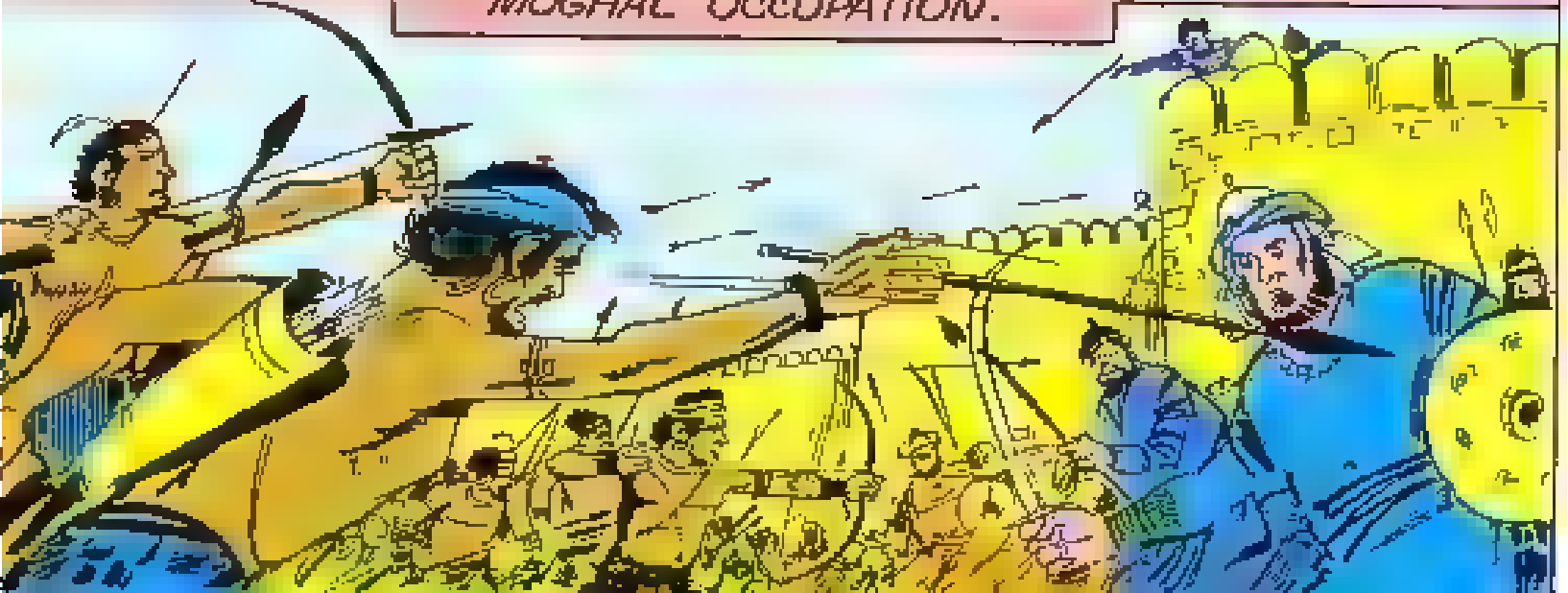
PRATAP LED THE BRAVE BHILS TO MANY VICTORIES.



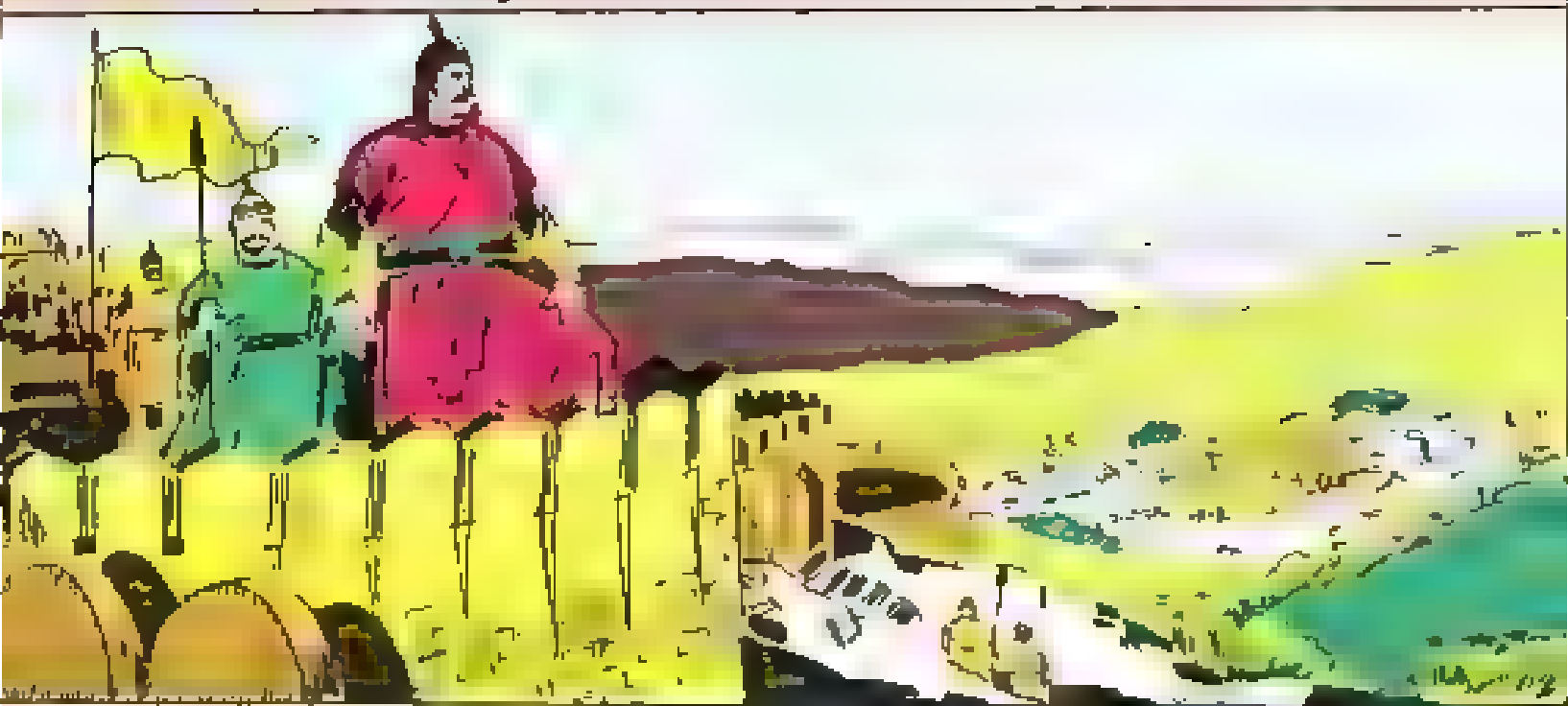
THE FORT OF PHINSAHRA WAS WON FROM THE MUGHALS



THEN PRATAP SWIFTLY ATTACKED OTHER NEARBY FORTS UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION.



FINALLY RANA PRATAP MANAGED TO LIBERATE THE AREAS OF
DEVAR, UDAIPUR AND KOMALMIR.

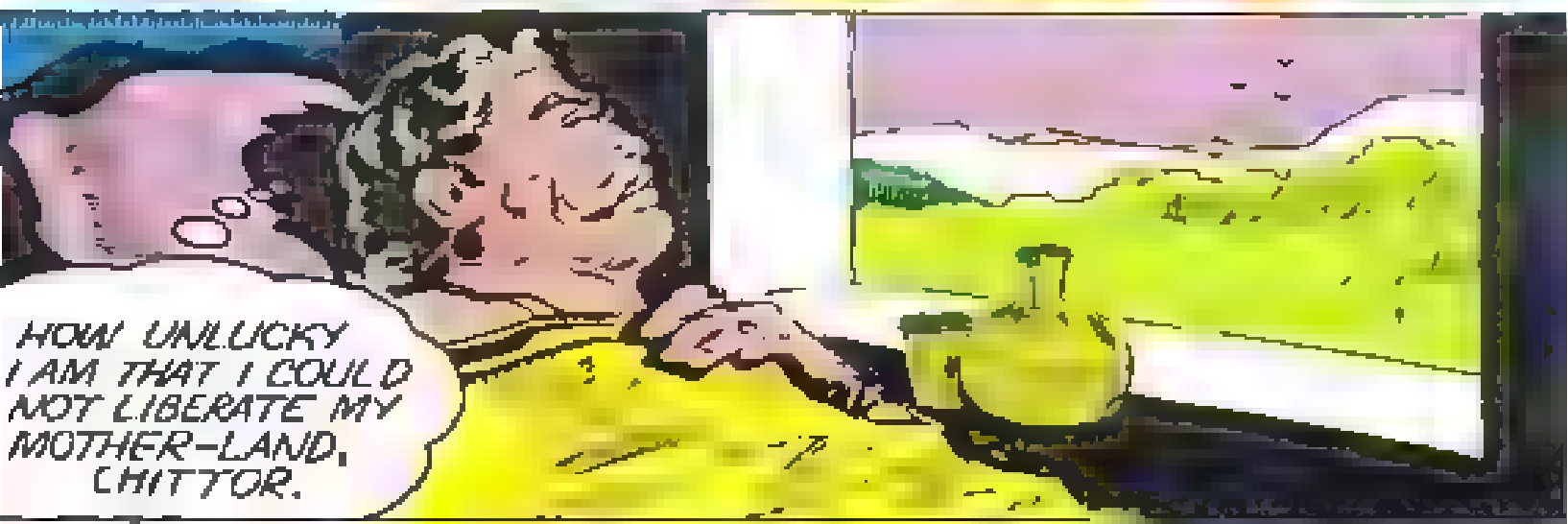


BUT CHITTOR WAS STILL OCCUPIED BY THE MUGHALS. PRATAP HAD
FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY FOR TWENTY YEARS. NOW HE WAS VERY SICK.



SOON YOU WOULD
BE HEALTHY AGAIN,
RANAJI!

NO, I KNOW THAT
MY END HAS COME



HOW UNLUCKY
I AM THAT I COULD
NOT LIBERATE MY
MOTHER-LAND,
CHITTOR.

THUS WITH HIS DREAM ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED, RANA PRATAP PASSED AWAY TILL THE LAST DAY OF HIS LIFE. HE STRICTLY ADHERED TO HIS OATH. EVEN WHEN HE WAS SICK, HE DID NOT SLEEP ON A COMFORTABLE BED, BUT ON THE GROUND. THUS RANA PRATAP SET AN EXAMPLE TO LEADERS OF ALL TIMES THAT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO LIVE IN LUXURY WHEN THE COUNTRY SUFFERED.





Rana Sanga





Illustrated Classics From India

Rana Sanga

In the 8th Century A.D. , Bappa Rawal drove out the invaders from Rajasthan and united several small kingdoms into one. Rana Sanga was his worthy successor. Early in the 16th century, when a vast area of India was under the domination of foreign rulers, he made a valiant attempt to defeat them.

This indefatigable fighter sustained eight battle-scars on his body and had lost one arm and one eye. He fought a decisive battle against Babar in 1527 at Khanwa and might have won it, but for the betrayal by his trusted commander Shiladitya Sanga. Defeated in battle, he was obliged to retreat, but he made a solemn vow never to re-enter Mewar until he had avenged his humiliation. Had his life been spared, he would have redeemed the pledge, but he did not live to fulfil it. His tenacity of purpose, however, inspired many of his successors including Rana Pratap.

In the following pages is narrated the story of the valour of this iron man of India that is based on Tod's Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan.

Script: Rajendra Sanjay

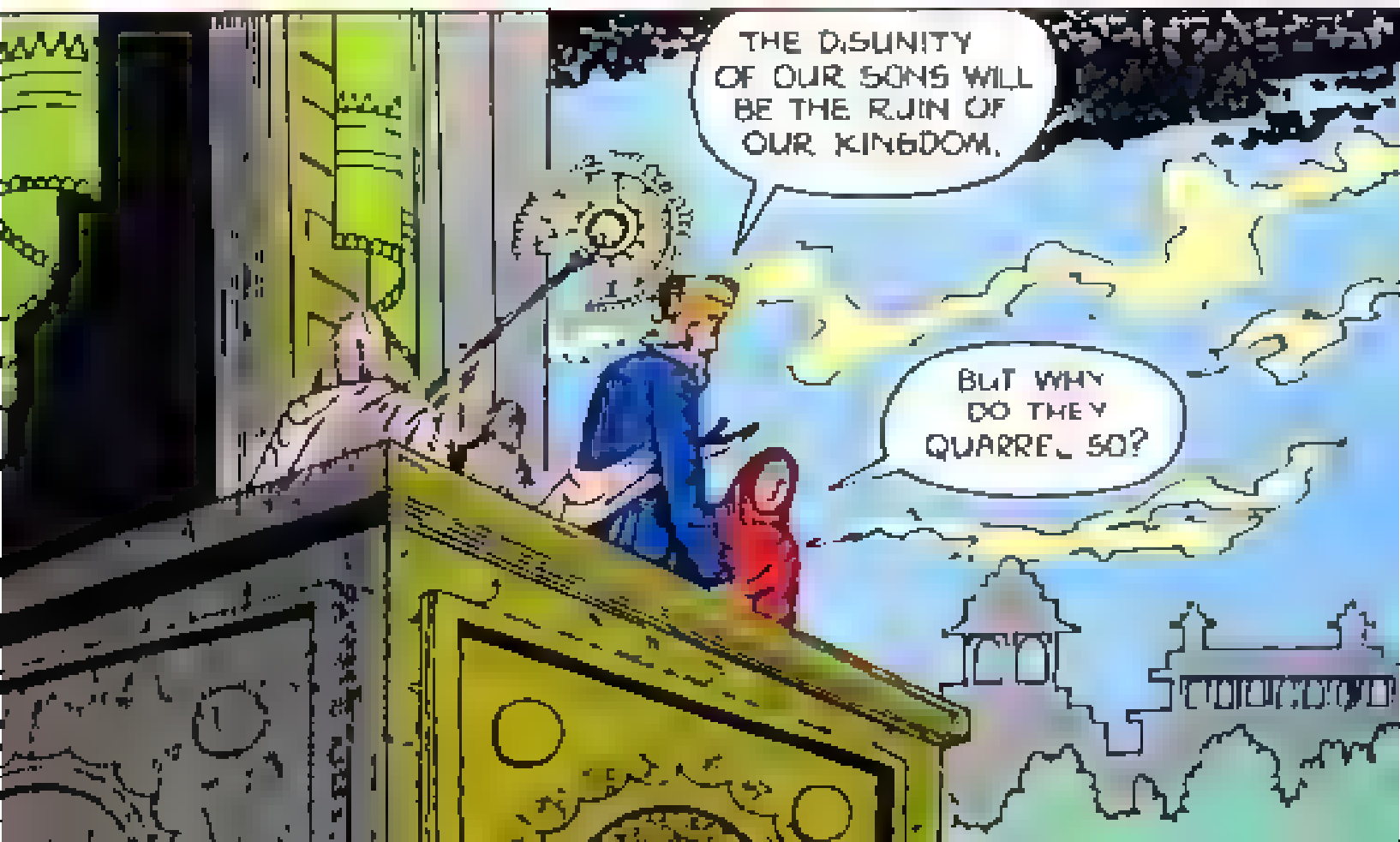
Illustrations: Ram Waeerkar

Cover :C. M. Vitankar

RANA SANGA

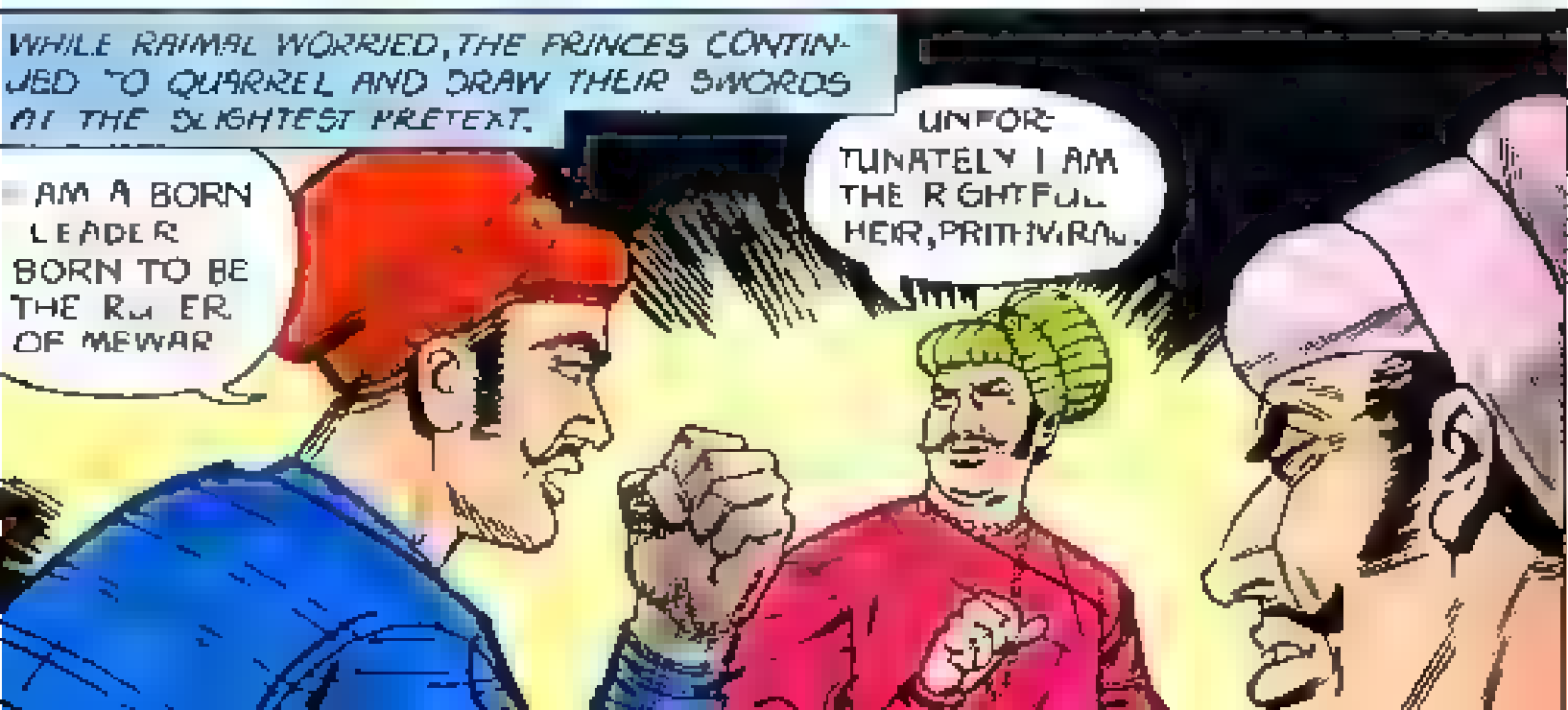


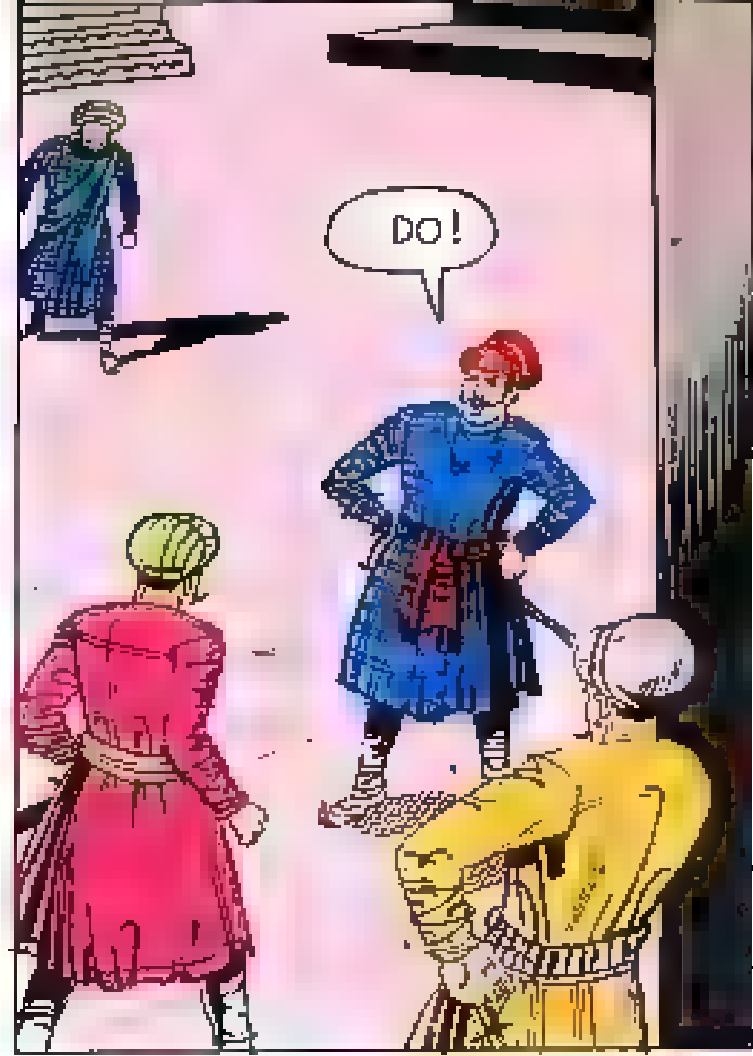
RANA RAIMAL, WHO RULED MEWAR IN THE EARLY HALF OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, WAS A VALANT KING WHO UPHELD THE GLORIOUS TRADITIONS OF HIS LAND. HIS THREE SONS, SANGA, PRITHVIKAI AND JAINAL, HOWEVER, WERE FOR EVER INVOLVED IN PETTY QUARRELS WITH ONE ANOTHER.



THE DISUNITY OF OUR SONS WILL BE THE RUIN OF OUR KINGDOM.

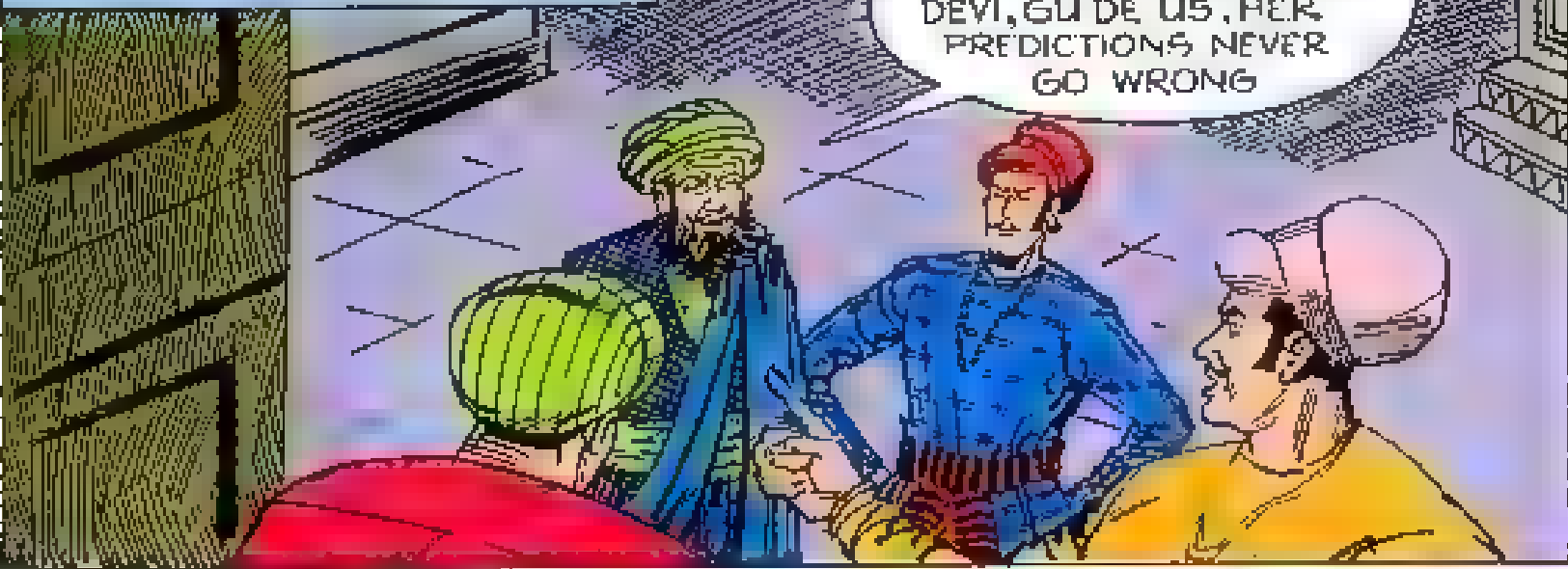
BUT WHY DO THEY QUARREL, SO?



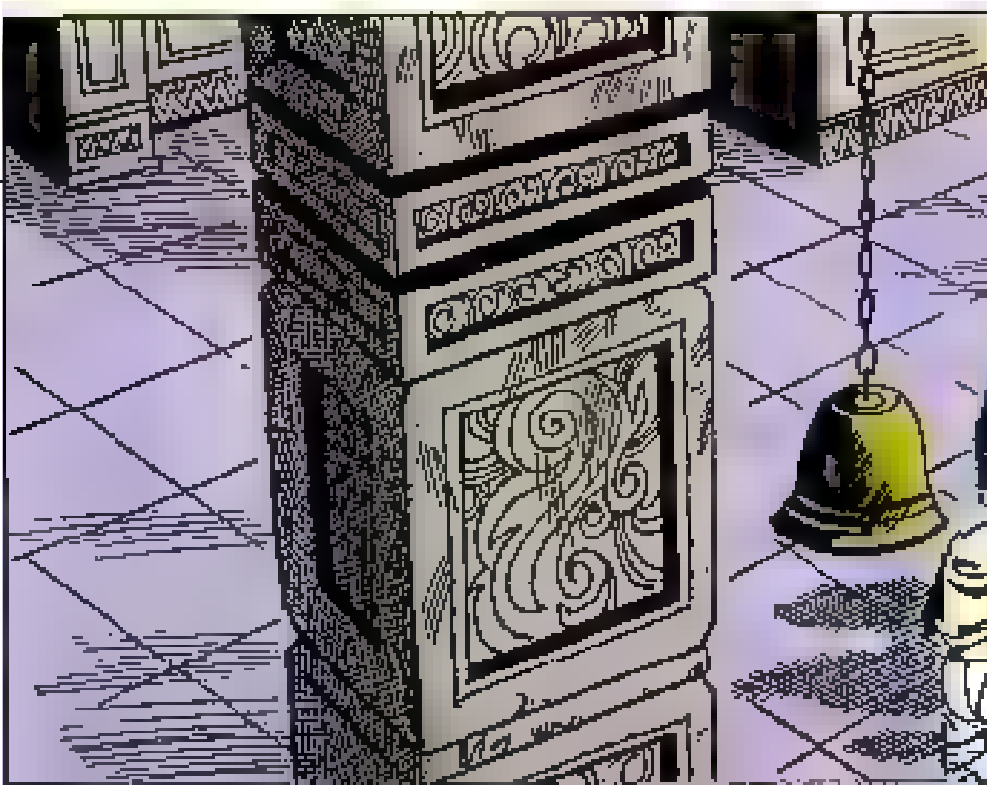
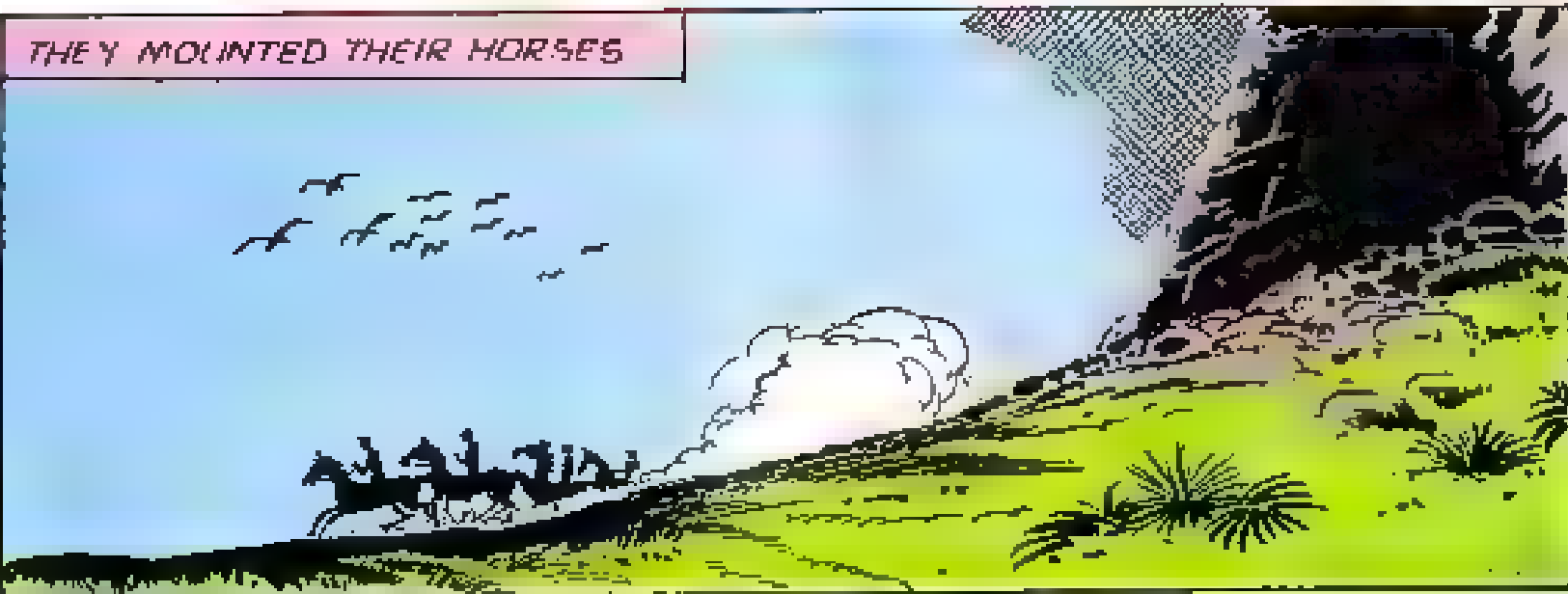


AS SANGA WAS ABOUT TO REPLY

LET THE ORACLE, CHARANI
DEVI, GU DE US, HER
PREDICTIONS NEVER
GO WRONG

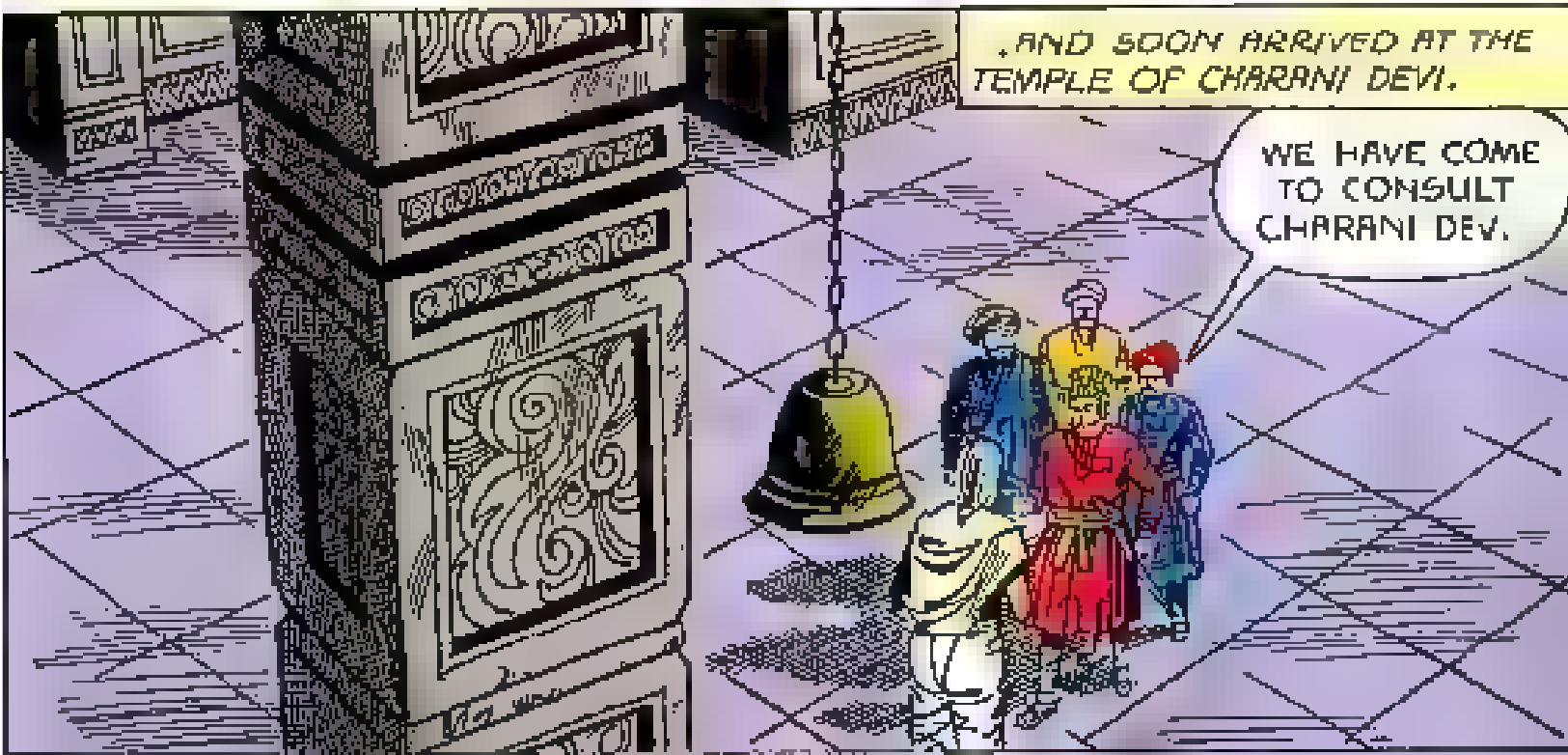


THEY MOUNTED THEIR HORSES



AND SOON ARRIVED AT THE
TEMPLE OF CHARANI DEVI.

WE HAVE COME
TO CONSULT
CHARANI DEV.



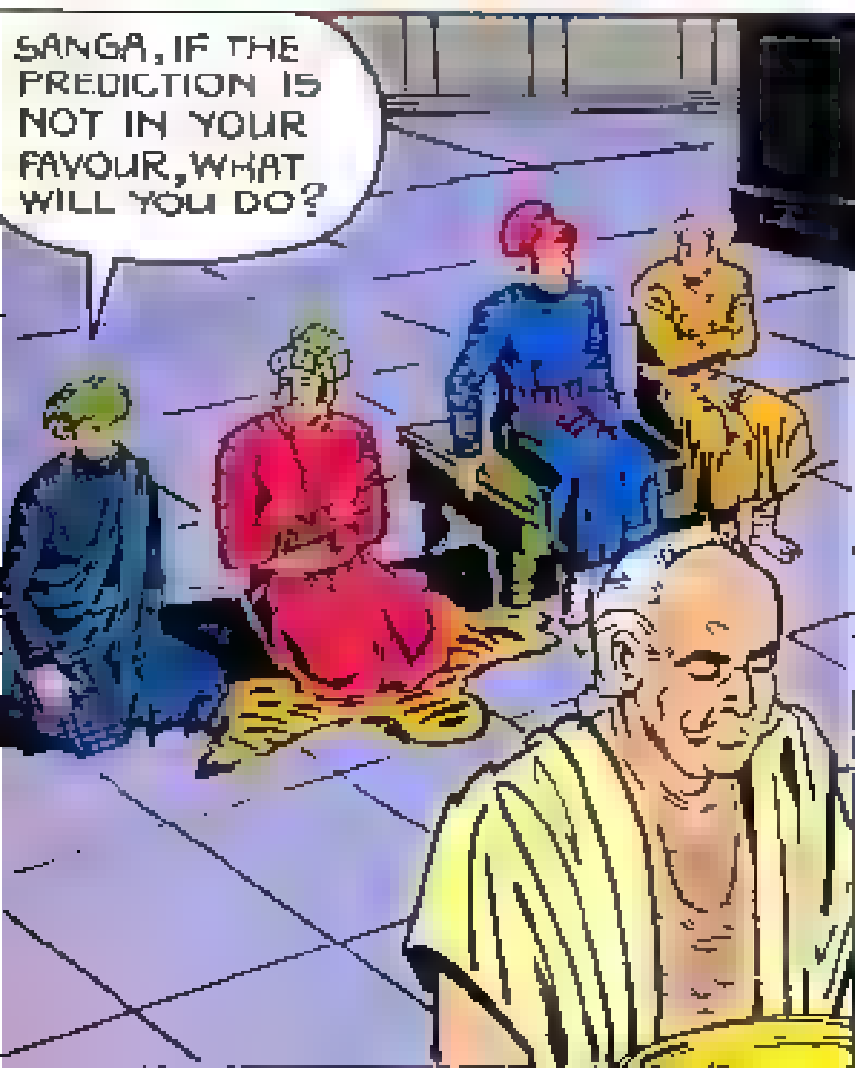


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHICH OF US IS DESTINED TO RULE MEWAR.



PLEASE SIT DOWN, I WILL PUT THE QUEST ON TO THE DEVI. SHE WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER THROUGH HER ATTENDANT.



SANGA, IF THE PREDICTION IS NOT IN YOUR FAVOUR, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

THE CALM AND PEACE OF THE TEMPLE HAD A STRANGE EFFECT ON SANGA HE NO LONGER WANTED TO FIGHT WITH HIS BROTHERS

I WILL GO AWAY AND ESTABLISH A NEW KINGDOM ELSEWHERE, IF MEWAR IS NOT DESTINED TO BE MINE

AND IF IT IS, YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST.

MEANWHILE, THE PRIEST
RETURNED WITH THE
ATTENDANT WHO WAS THE
MOUTHPiece OF THE DEVI.

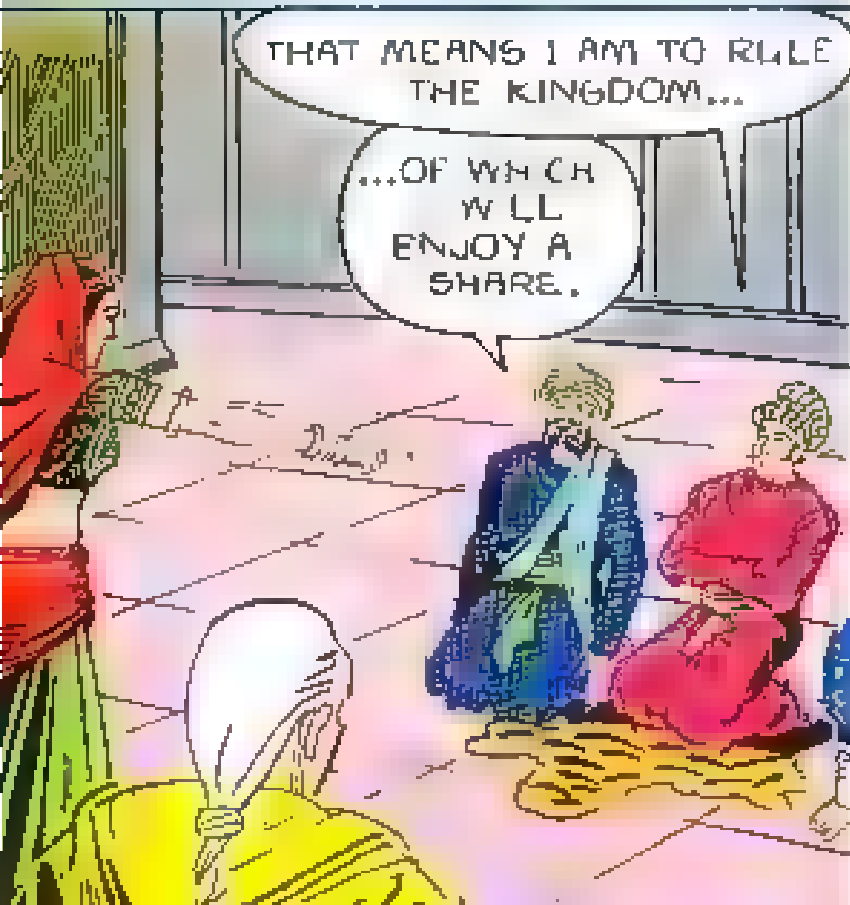
HERE THEY COME -
WITH THE
PREDICTION!



THE ATTENDANT POINTED TO THE TIGER
SKIN ON WHICH SANGA WAS SITTING
AND SURAMAL WAS RESTING A KNEE.

THAT MEANS I AM TO RULE
THE KINGDOM...

...OF WHICH
WE LL
ENJOY A
SHARE.



SO THAT WAS
THE JACKAL'S
GAME!



BRISTLING WITH RAGE, PRITHVIRAJ DREW HIS SWORD AND CHARGED AT SANGA



BUT SURAJMAL WHO LEAPT FORWARD TO PARRY THE THRUST.



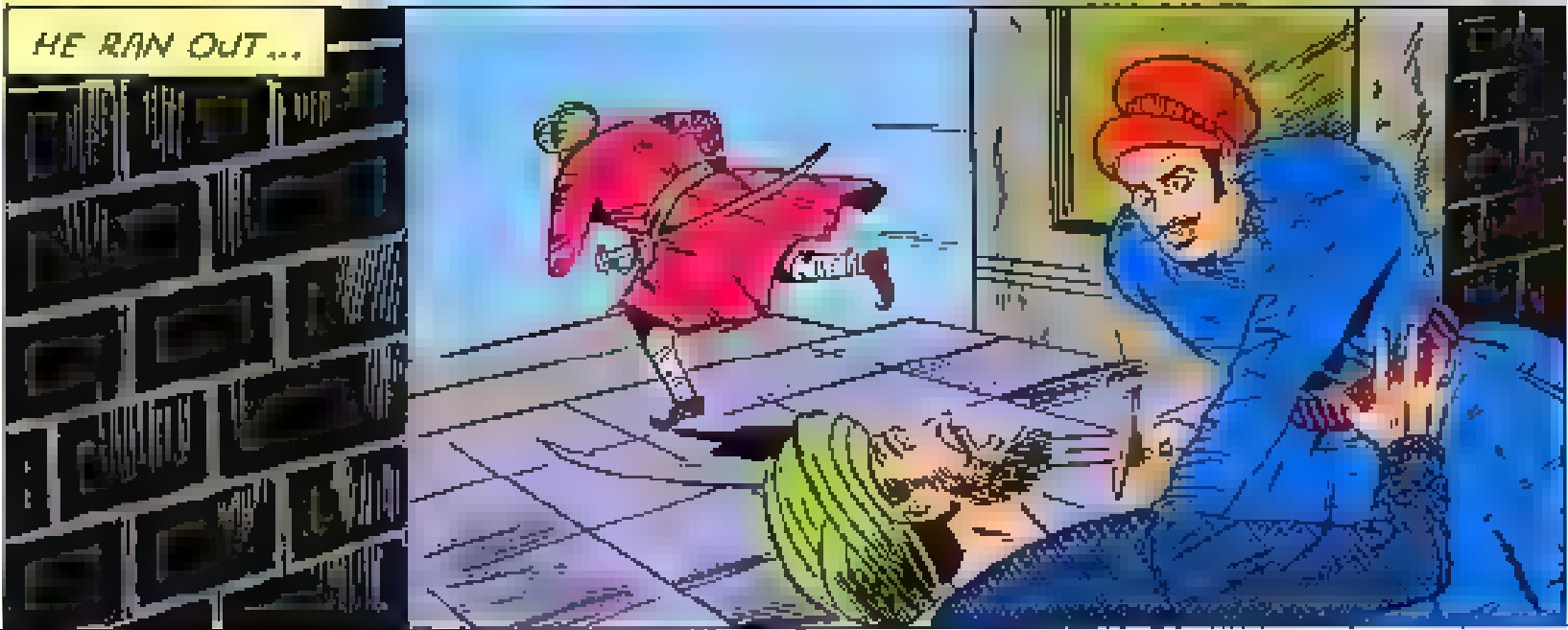
RECEIVED THE BLOW.



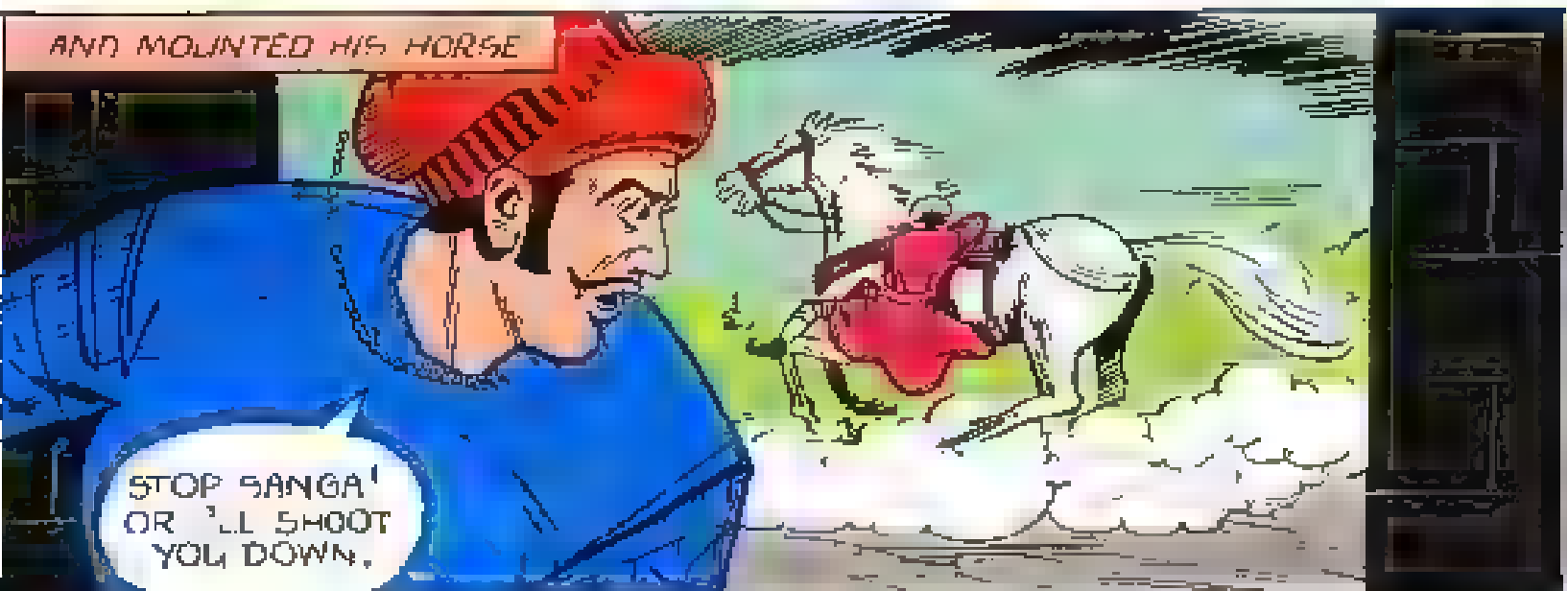
WHEN SANGA SAW THIS -



HE RAN OUT...

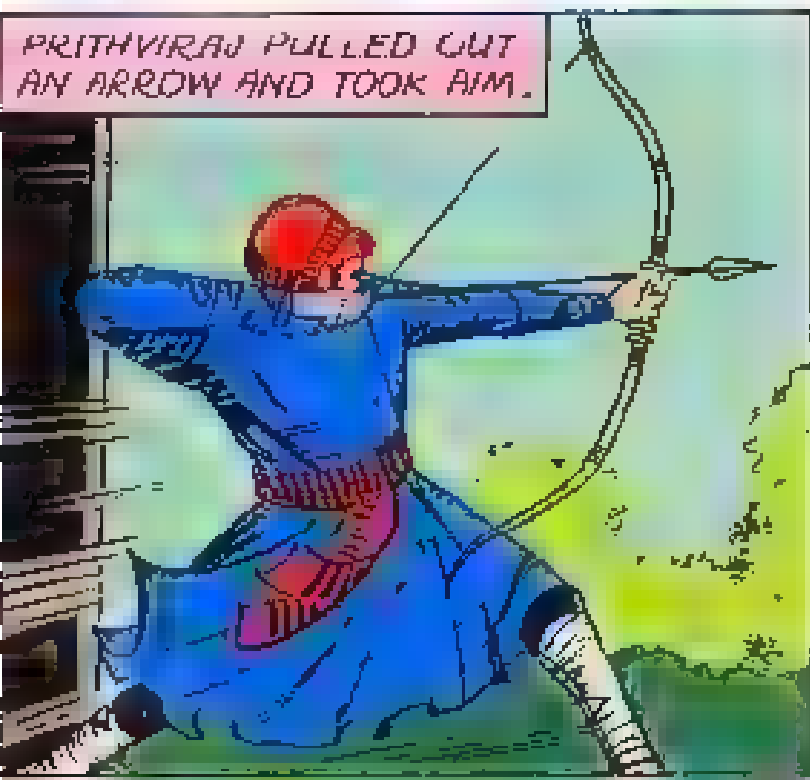


AND MOUNTED HIS HORSE

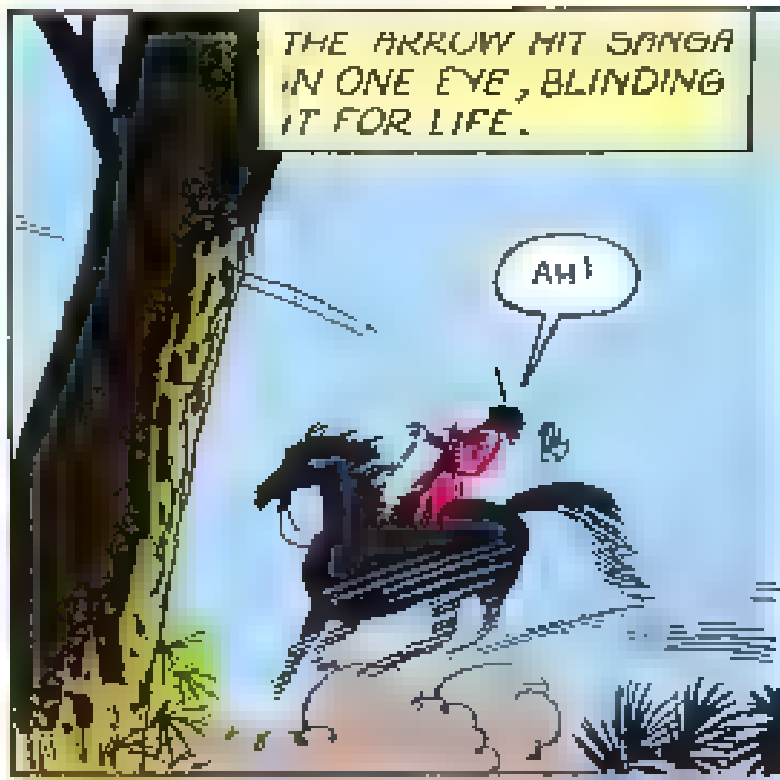


STOP SANGA!
OR I'LL SHOOT
YOU DOWN.

PRITHVIRAJ PULLED OUT
AN ARROW AND TOOK AIM.



THE ARROW HIT SANGA
IN ONE EYE, BLINDING
IT FOR LIFE.



AH!

AS PRITHVIRAJ WAS ABOUT TO RUN UP TO SANGA AND FINISH HIM

PRITHVIRAJ!
STOP IT! FOR
GOD'S SAKE!

THEN
I WILL TAKE
CARE OF YOU
FIRST UNCLE!

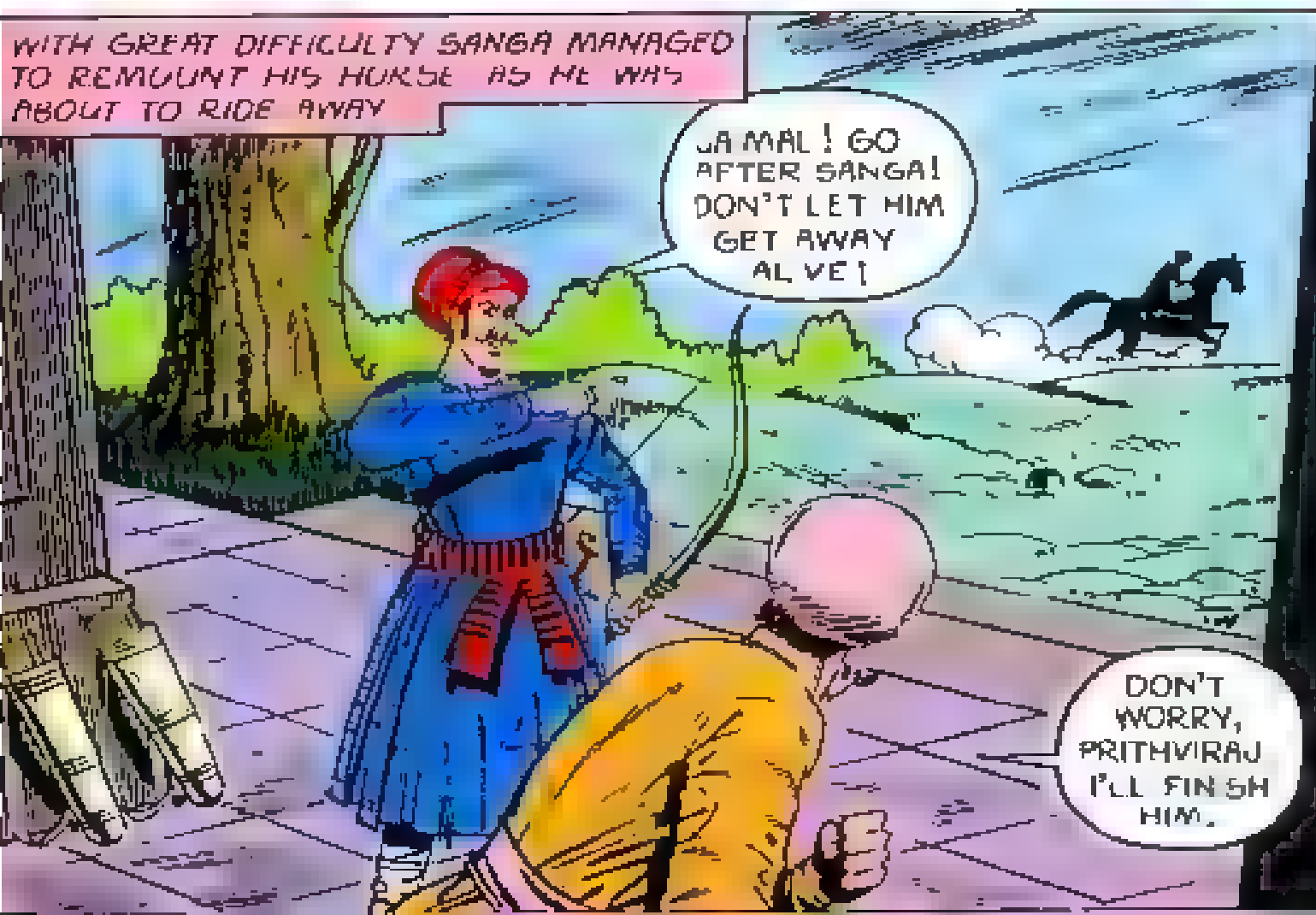
WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY SANGA MANAGED
TO REMOUNT HIS HORSE AS HE WAS
ABOUT TO RIDE AWAY

JAMAL! GO
AFTER SANGA!
DON'T LET HIM
GET AWAY
ALIVE!

DON'T
WORRY,
PRITHVIRAJ
I'LL FINISH
HIM.

MEANWHILE —

PRITHVIRAJ'S
ATTENTION IS
DIVERTED I'D
BETTER ESCAPE





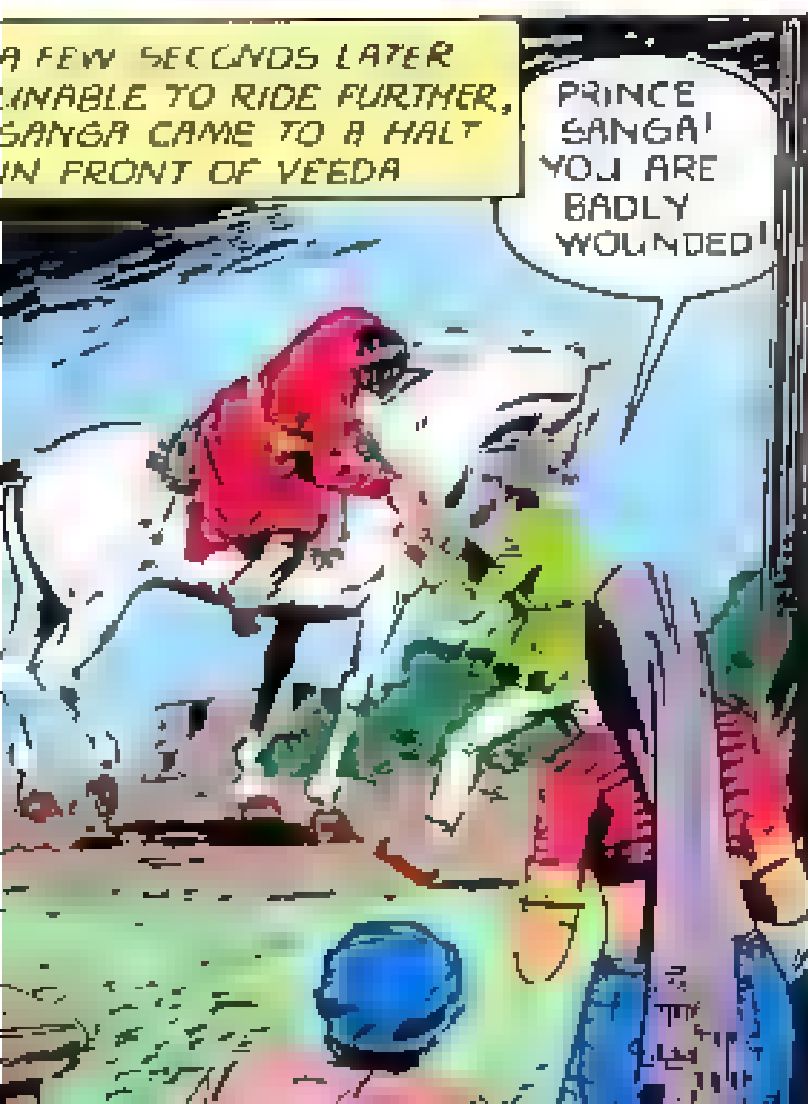
SANGA, STOP!
I SAY STOP.

AT THAT MOMENT, VEEDA, A TRADESMAN WHO WAS PREPARING TO GO OUT OF MEWAR, WAS TAKING LEAVE OF HIS FAMILY SUDDENLY—



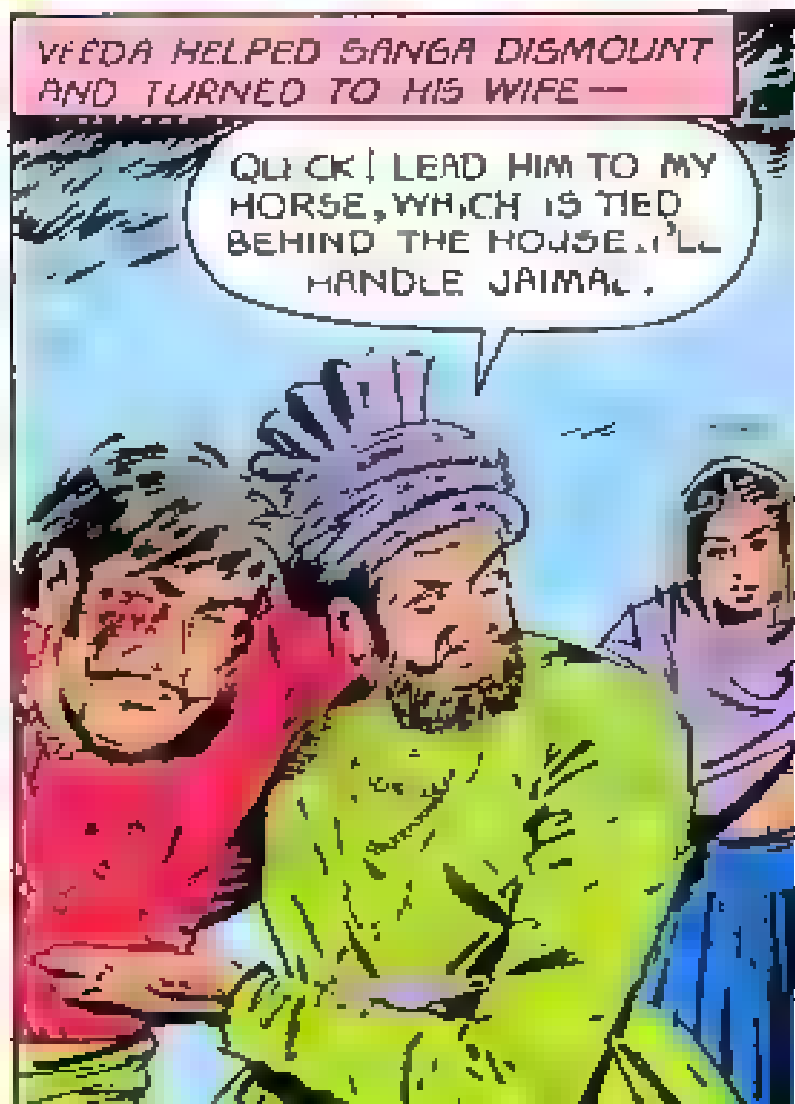
THE
PRINCES! THEY
ARE COMING
THIS WAY.

A FEW SECONDS LATER
UNABLE TO RIDE FURTHER,
SANGA CAME TO A HALT
IN FRONT OF VEEDA



PRINCE
SANGA!
YOU ARE
BADLY
WOUNDED!

VEEDA HELPED SANGA DISMOUNT
AND TURNED TO HIS WIFE —



QUICK! LEAD HIM TO MY
HORSE, WHICH IS TIED
BEHIND THE HOUSE. I'LL
HANDLE JAIMAL.

A FEW SECONDS AFTER VEETA'S WIFE
LED SANGA AWAY, JAIMAL RODE JA

WHERE IS
SANGA?

I'LL GIVE UP
MY LIFE BUT
I'LL NEVER
TELL WHO

ENRAGED, JAIMAL DREW HIS
SWORD AND ATTACKED VEETA

THIS SHOULD
GIVE PRINCE
SANGA ENOUGH
TIME TO GET
AWAY

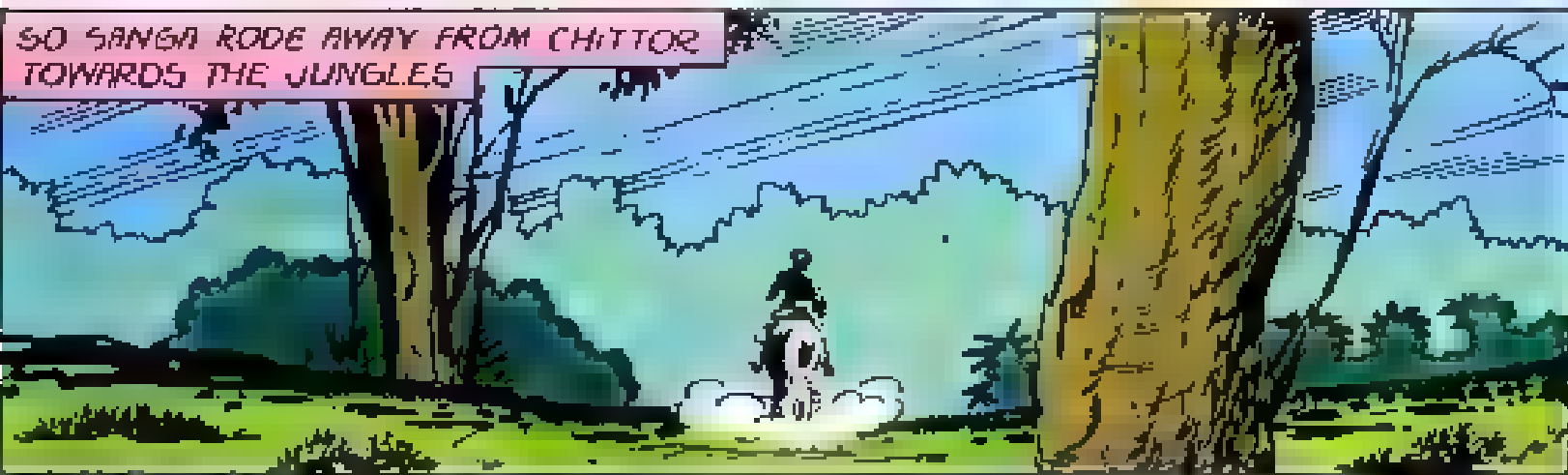
VEEDA STOPPED JAIMAL BUT
AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE

SANGA, MEANWHILE, ESCAPED
ON VEEDA'S HORSE.

I WILL NOT GO BACK
PRITHVIRAJ IS DETERMINED
TO TAKE THE THRONE OUR
WAR OVER THE SUCCESSION
WILL BENEFIT NONE
BUT THE ENEMIES
OF MEWAR



SO SANGA RODE AWAY FROM CHITTOR
TOWARDS THE JUNGLES

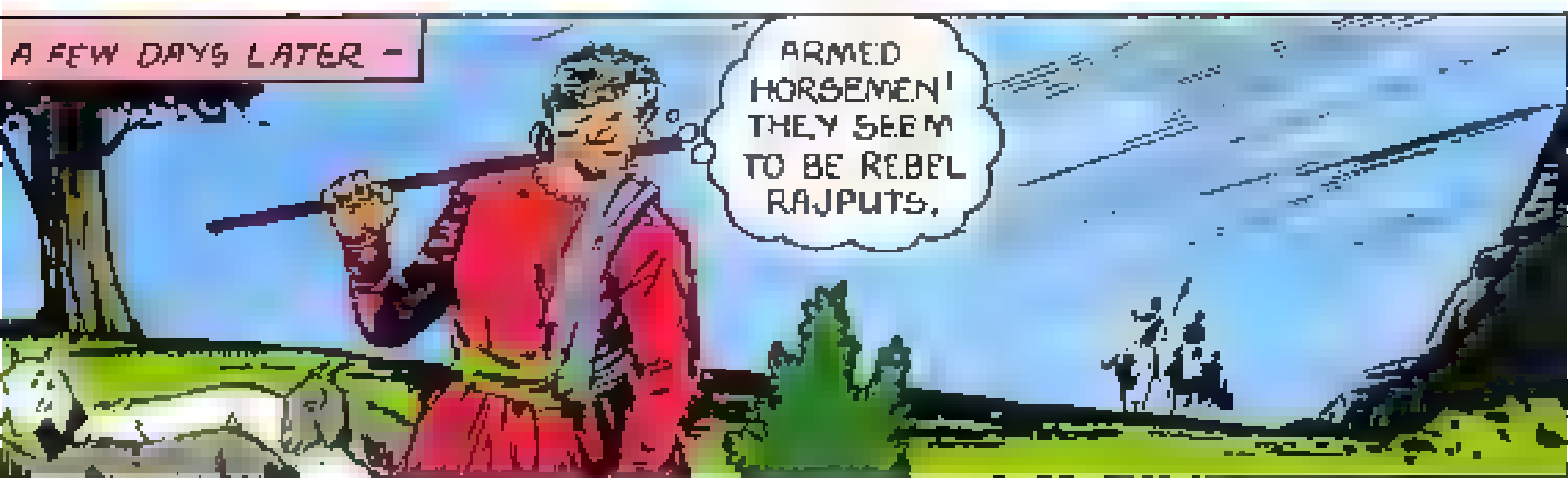
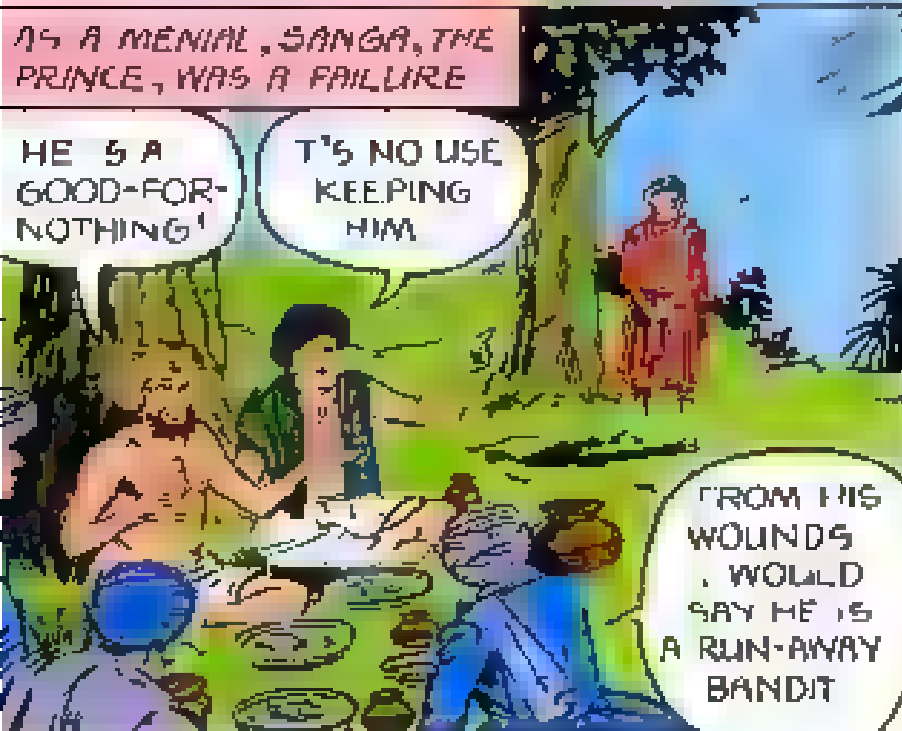


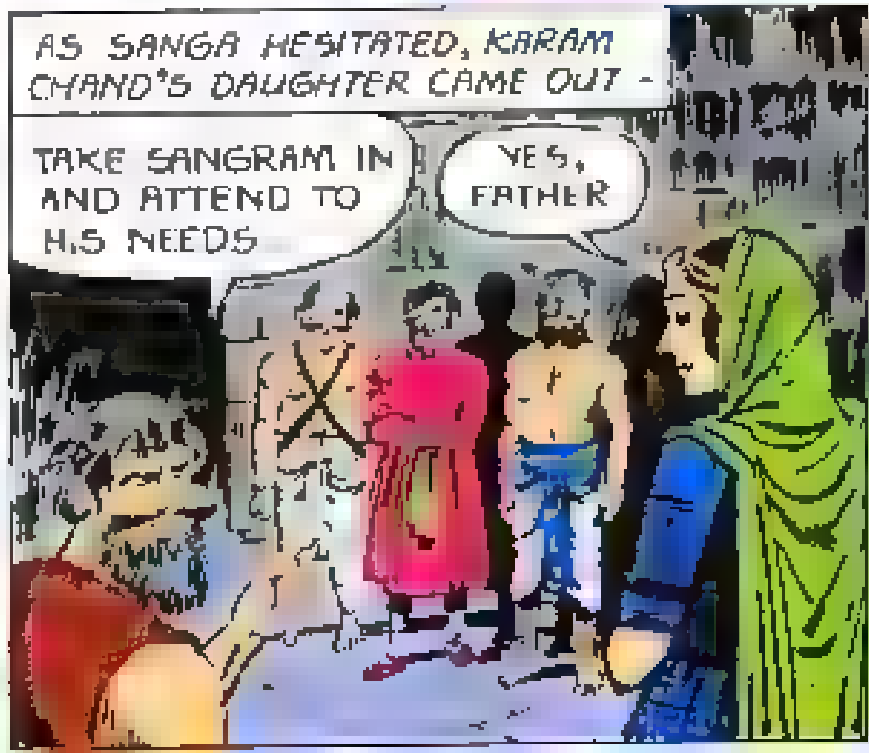
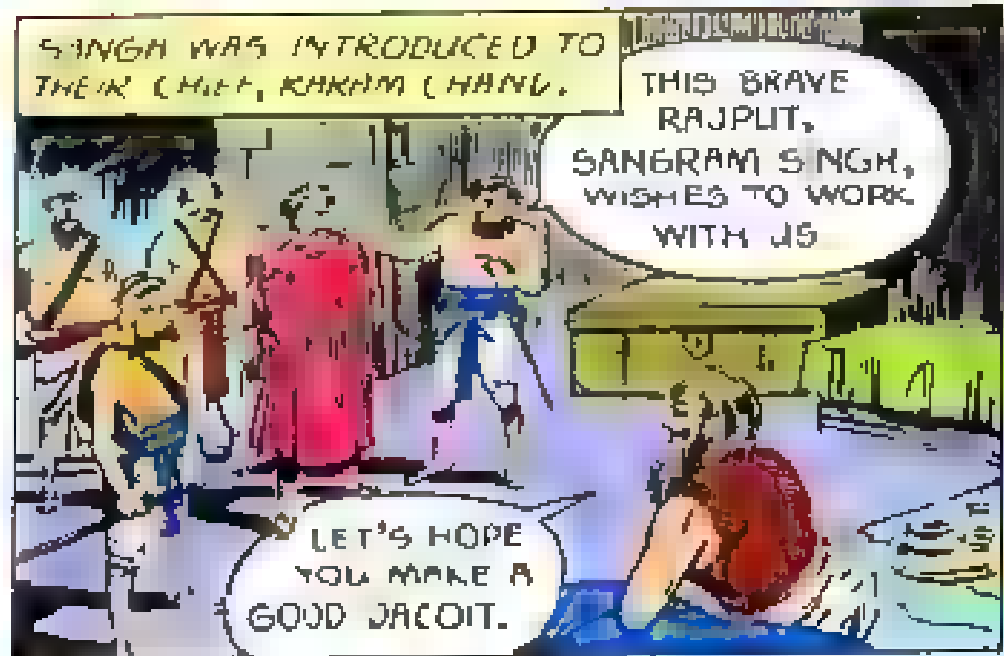
A FEW HOURS LATER,
SANGA SAW SOME
SHEPHERDS HE
APPROACHED THEM
FOR WORK

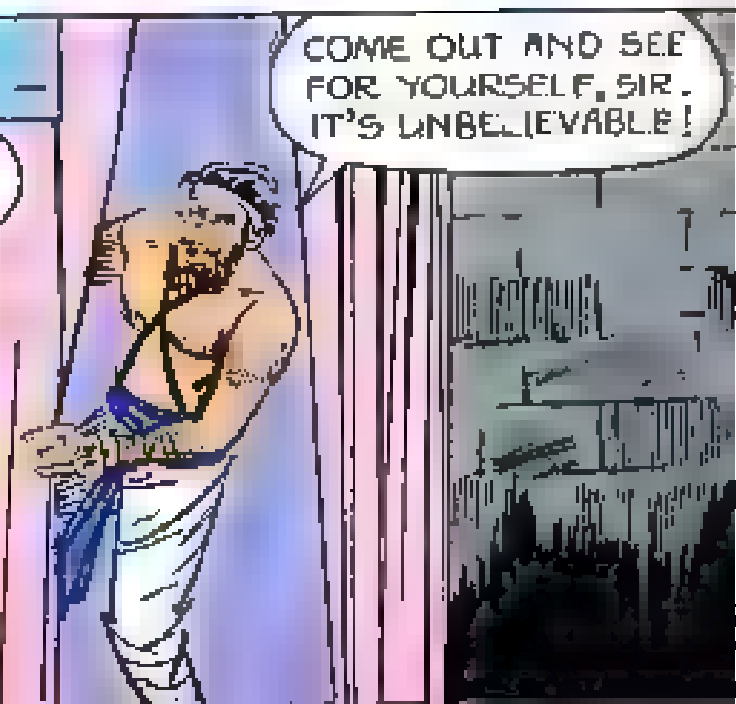
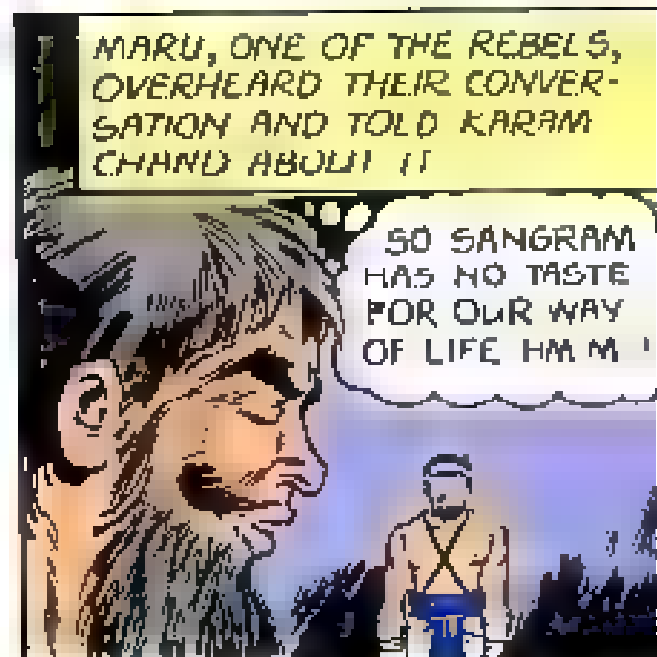
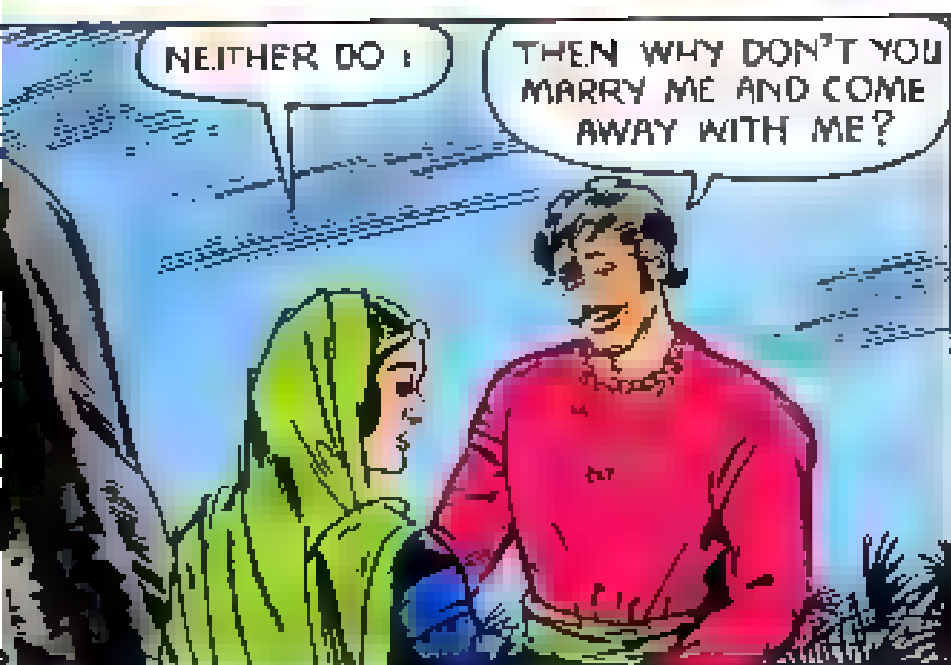
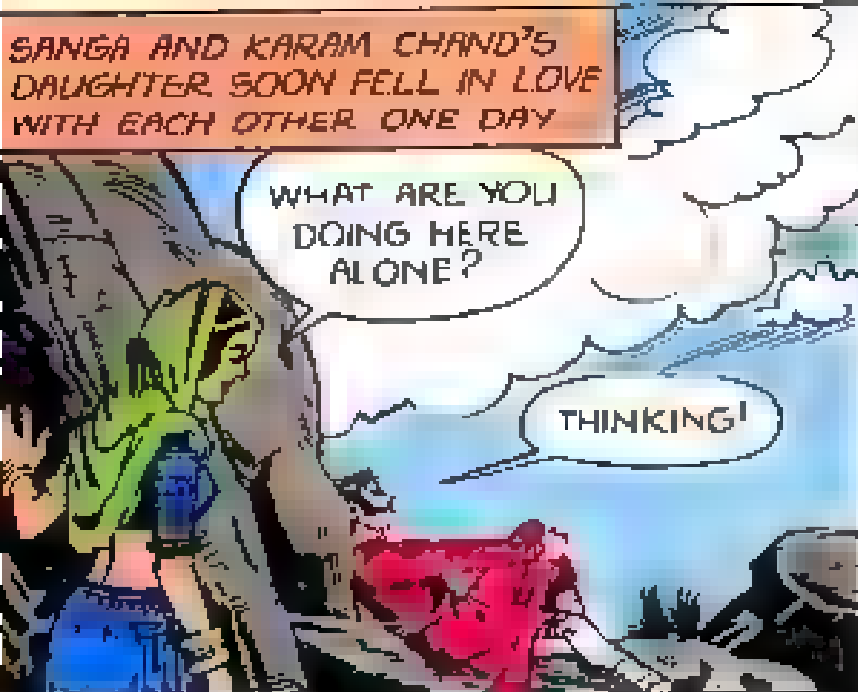
CAN YOU GRAZE OUR
GOATS AND SHEEP
AND COOK FOR US?

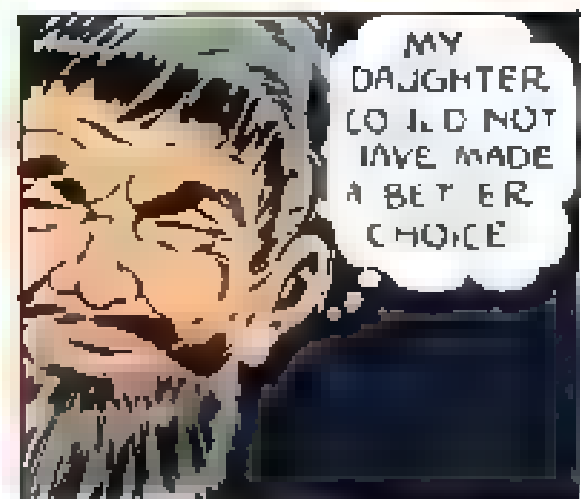
I WILL
TRY





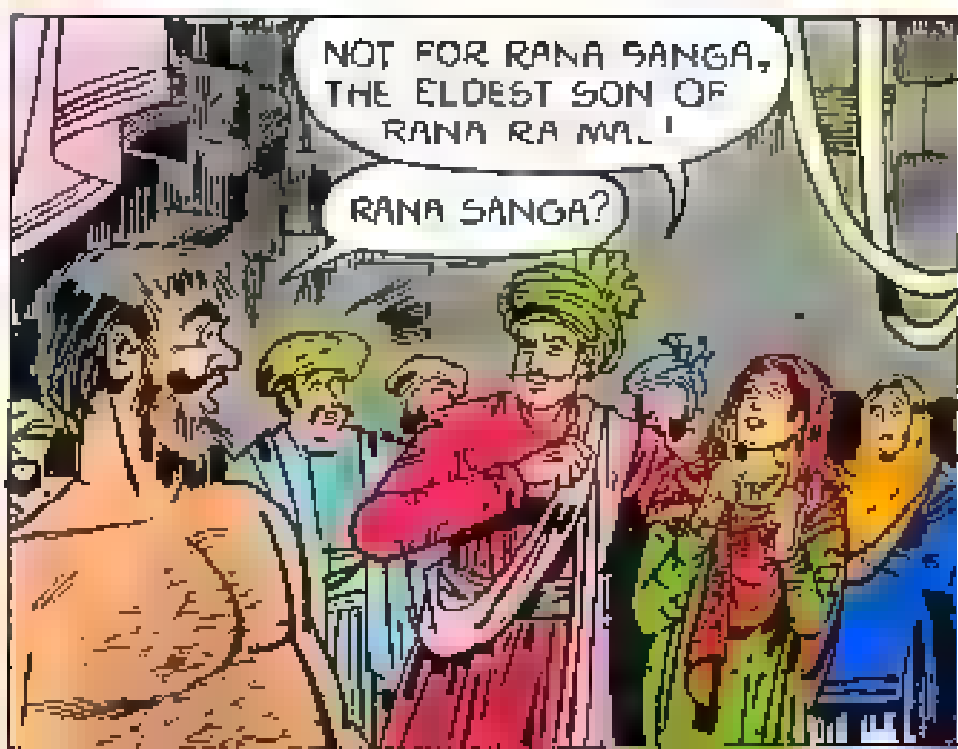


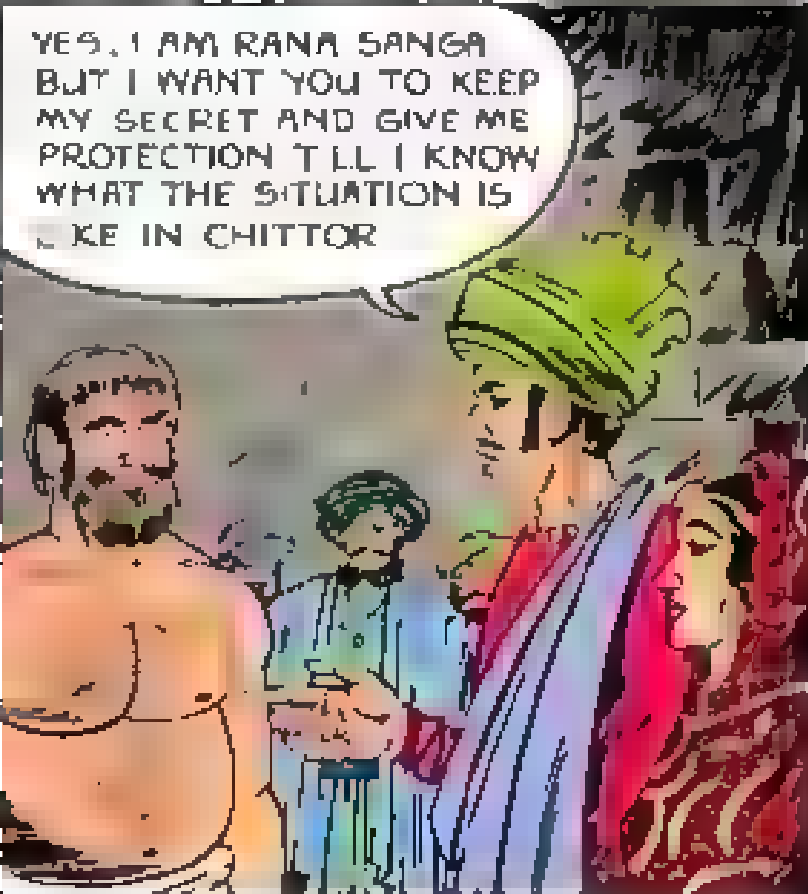






AFTER THE WEDDING, SANGA AND HIS BRIDE APPROACHED KARAM CHAND FOR HIS BLESSINGS.

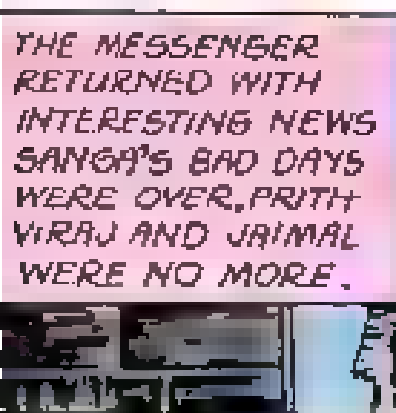




YES, I AM RANA SANGA
BUT I WANT YOU TO KEEP
MY SECRET AND GIVE ME
PROTECTION TILL I KNOW
WHAT THE SITUATION IS
LIKE IN CHITTOR



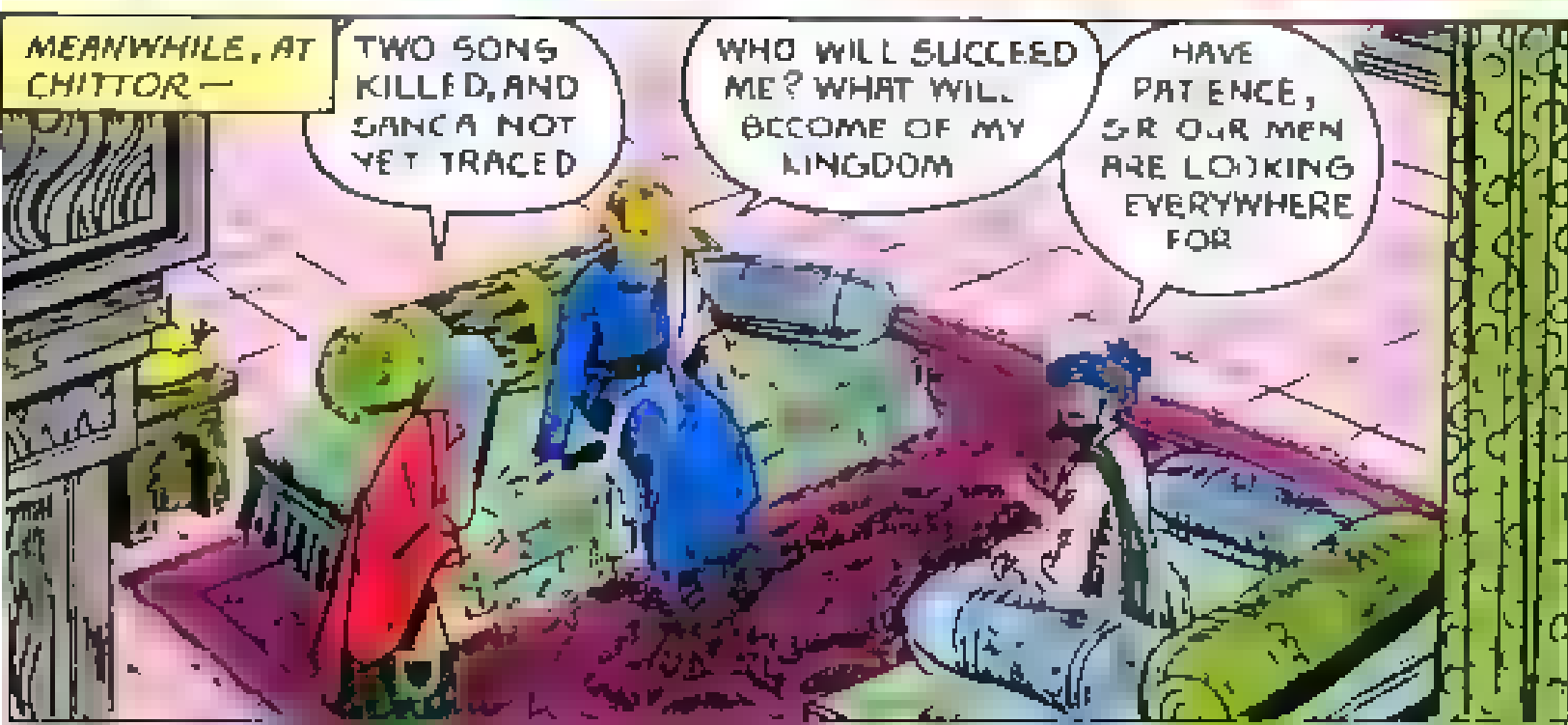
WE WILL SEND
SOMEONE TO
FIND OUT,



THE MESSENGER
RETURNED WITH
INTERESTING NEWS
SANGA'S BAD DAYS
WERE OVER, PRITH
VIRAJ AND JAINAL
WERE NO MORE.

THE KING'S MEN
ARE LOOKING FOR
YOU EVERYWHERE.

GO TO
CHITTOR
DON'T WASTE
ANOTHER
MOMENT



MEANWHILE, AT
CHITTOR—

TWO SONS
KILLED, AND
SANGA NOT
YET TRACED

WHO WILL SUCCEED
ME? WHAT WILL
BECOME OF MY
KINGDOM

HAVE
PATIENCE,
OR OUR MEN
ARE LOOKING
EVERYWHERE
FOR







THOUGH A PRISONER, MAHMOOD KHLJI WAS TREATED LIKE AN HONOURD GUEST

WHY DO YOU TREAT ME, A PRISONER, SO ROYALLY?

BECAUSE YOU ARE A KING AND A GUEST IN MY PALACE.



I COULD EASILY ESCAPE

THAT WOULD BE COWARDLY.



KHLJI HAD TO CEDE FOUR PROVINCES—BHILSA, SARANGPUR, CHANDERI AND RANTHAMBOR BEFORE SANGA RELEASED HIM. MEANWHILE, BABAR HAD INVADDED DELHI.

BABAR IS JUST ANOTHER PLUNDERER!

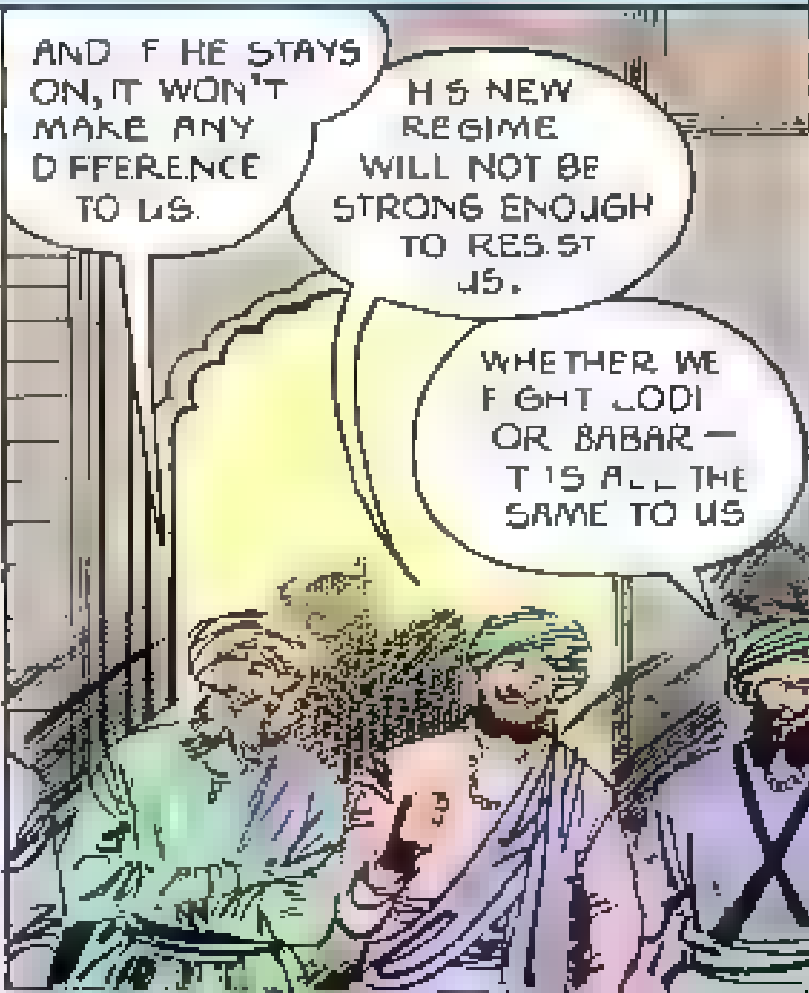
IF HE DEFEATS LOD, HE WILL COLLECT ALL THE WEALTH HE CAN AND GO BACK!



AND IF HE STAYS ON, IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO US.

HIS NEW REGIME WILL NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST US.

WHETHER WE FIGHT LODI OR BABAR—IT IS ALL THE SAME TO US.





WE MUST
TAKE OVER
DELHI AT
ALL COSTS



IN APRIL 1556, BABAR DEFEATED IBRAHIM LODI, BECAME THE NEW RULER OF DELHI AND IMMEDIATELY MADE PREPARATIONS FOR A WAR ON CHITTEL KANHA HAD LIVING WITH HIS MINISTERS

AMAZING! BABAR HAS COMPLETED HIS PREPARATIONS

HE SEEMS TO BE AMBITIOUS

ALL HAVE MEN ARE MODERIS SALLA DITYA, OUR FORCES HAVE TO BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED.



HE SHOULD BE DRIVEN OUT OF OUR MOTHERLAND

LIKE YOUR SPIRIT, SHALADTYA I PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE DEFENCE UNITS



WE TRUST YOU TO PERFORM YOUR TASK WITH HONOUR AND SINCERITY.

I WILL NOT HESITATE TO LAY DOWN MY LIFE IN DOING MY DUTY



MEANWHILE, AT BABAR'S COURT IN DELHI—

CHIEF SOLDIERS ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE VALOUR OF THE RAJPUTS

IAHANPANA, WE WILL RUN A GREAT RISK IN FIGHTING KANA SINGA



LET US TEST
THE METTLE
OF THIS MAN
WHO HAS
ONLY ONE
EYE AND
ONE ARM.

IN MARCH 1577, BAHAR ATTACKED THE
FORCES OF KHAN SHIRAZ AND BAHAR
MET IN THE BATTLEFIELD OF KHANWA



BAHAR'S ADVANCE OF ABOUT 1500
MEN WAS CUT TO PIECES



AS REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT
BUT THEY TOO MADE A HURRIED
RETREAT

SAHANPANAM,
OUR SOLDIERS
HAVE ALREADY
LOST HEART



I WILL
SPEAK TO
THEM

BABAR ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION
OF ALL WINE FLASKS



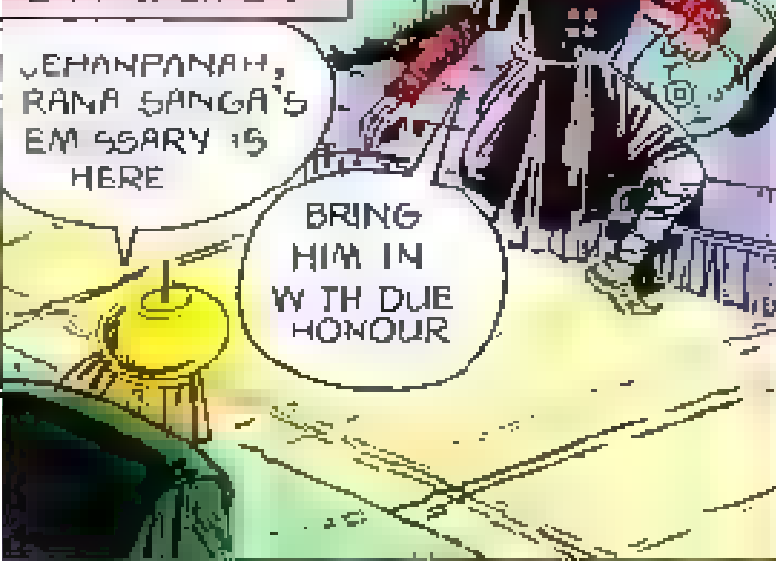
THEN HE MADE A STIRRING SPEECH
BEFORE HIS SOLDIERS



ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE
BATTLE, HOWEVER, BABAR SENT
HIS EMISSARY TO RANA SANGA



BUT BABAR
REJECTED THE
TERMS. A
LITTLE LATER -



ACCEPT OUR TERMS.
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE
TO DEFEAT SANGA'S
ARMY





WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IF WE JOIN HANDS, WE CAN BOTH GET WHAT WE WANT!



YOU MEAN YOU WIN THE WAR,

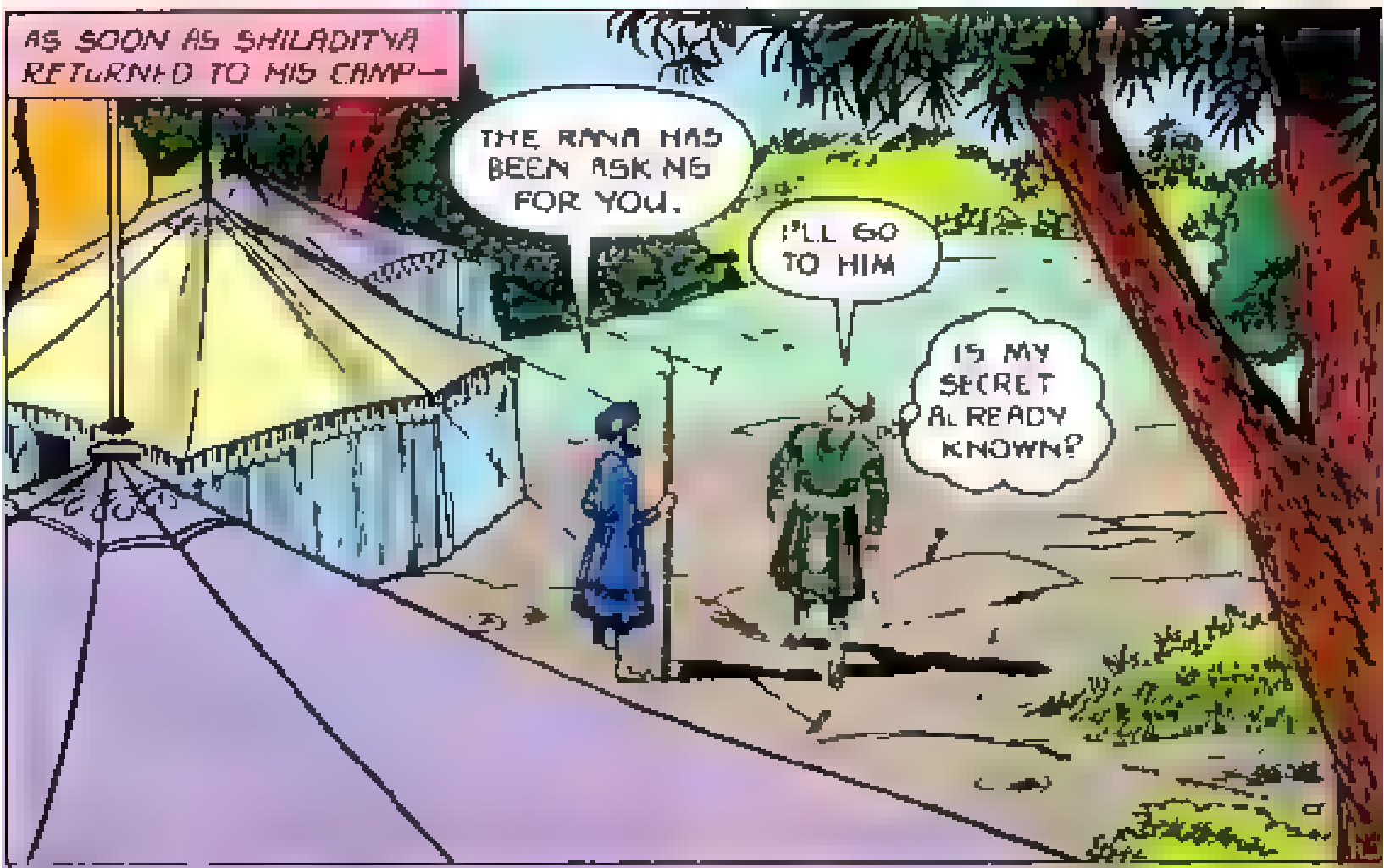
AND YOU GET CHITTOR!



GREED GOT THE BETTER OF SHILADITYA

YOU WON'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD, WILL YOU?

ON THE HOLY KORAN—I WILL NOT



AS SOON AS SHILADITYA RETURNED TO HIS CAMP—

THE RANA HAS BEEN ASKING FOR YOU.

I'LL GO TO HIM

IS MY SECRET ALREADY KNOWN?





IN THE DARK NIGHT, SANGA LEFT FOR THE HILL WITH HIS TROOPS



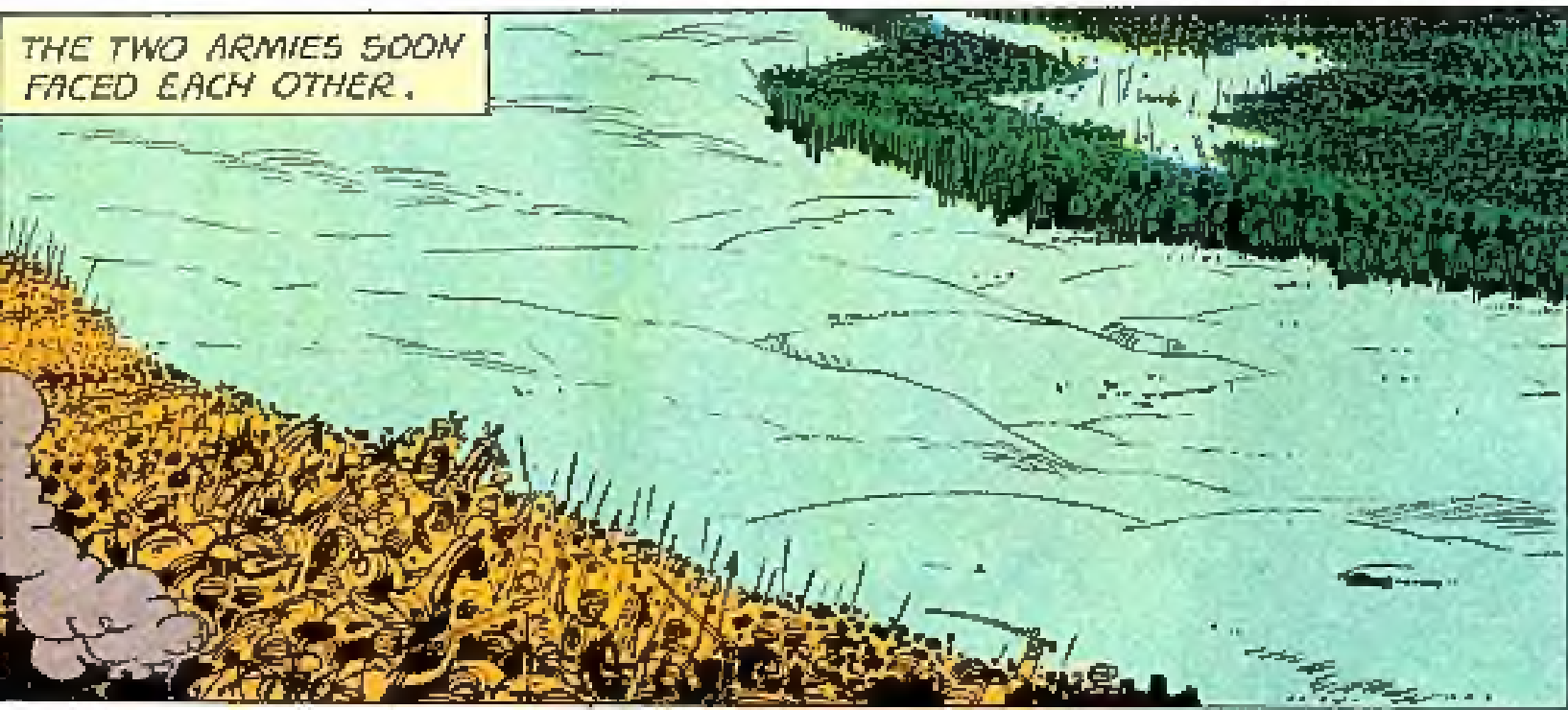


BOTH ARMIES
ARE GETTING
READY.

MOTHER CHANDI
IS MY WITNESS —
WE WILL WIN.



THIS WILL BE
THE DECISIVE
DAY.



THE TWO ARMIES SOON
FACED EACH OTHER.

SUDDENLY—

LOOK! LOOK!
INSTEAD OF FIGHTING,
THE TWO ARMIES ARE
MARCHING TOWARDS
CHITTOR TOGETHER.

WE HAVE BEEN
BETRAYED.
SHILADITYA,
I TRUSTED
YOU...

SINCE THE MAJOR PART
OF HIS ARMY HAD BEEN
GIVEN TO SHILADITYA,
RANA SANGA HAD TO
ABANDON HIS PLANS.

A REAR ATTACK
WOULD NOW BE
IN VAIN.

RANA SANGA AND HIS MEN
WANDERED INTO THE HILLS,
AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY
TO ATTACK THE MUGHALS.

I VOW
NOT TO RETURN
TO MEWAR UNTIL
I'VE VANQUISHED
THE MUGHALS.

WE ARE
WITH YOU.

BUT THE UNCERTAINTY AND INSECURITY OF LIFE IN EXILE AFFECTED THE RANA'S HEALTH.



HE WAS CONFINED TO BED AND WAS UNABLE TO FULFIL HIS VOW.



WILL YOU FORGIVE YOUR DEFAULTING SON, O MOTHER-LAND?

A FEW MONTHS LATER, HE DIED AT VASVA, A VILLAGE IN THE HILLS.



IF SHILADITYA HAD NOT BETRAYED RANA SANGA, INDIA PERHAPS WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED THE HUMILIATION OF FOREIGN DOMINATION.



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Among the galaxy of Rajput sovereigns, Maharana Kumbha occupies an incomparable position. His natural abilities and achievements place him in the forefront of the great rulers not only of Mewar, but also of the entire nation. The material for the Chitra Katha on Kumbha has been drawn from the book on his life by Haribilas Sarda.

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Early in the 16th century, when a vast area of India was under the domination of foreign rulers, Rana Sanga made a valiant attempt to defeat them. He fought a decisive battle against Babar in March 1527 at Khanwa and might have won it, but for his trusted commander, Shikaditya who unfortunately betrayed him. Defeated in battle, he vowed to never re-enter Mewar until he avenged his humiliation. If his life was spared, he would have redeemed the pledge; but he did not live to fulfill it. His tenacity of purpose inspired many of his successors including Rana Pratap.

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Editor: Anant Pai

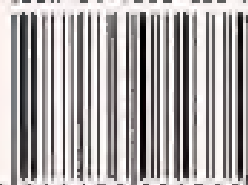
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